

## Huge Sattar lead in Bangladesh

Early official returns in the Bangladesh presidential election showed Mr. Abdus Sattar, the acting President, heading for a sweeping victory with a 7-1 lead over Dr. Kamal Hossain, his principal opponent. An angry Dr. Hossain called a press conference to accuse the Government of "rigged manufacture" of results. Back page

## Trident missile goes off course

A Trident missile which was fired from a submerged submarine veered off course and had to be destroyed in mid-air. The missile was launched from the USS Benjamin Franklin about 50 miles from Cape Canaveral. Back page

## Engineering pay offer may rise

The Engineering Employers' Federation is likely to raise its pay offer to two million employees from 3.16 per cent to between 4 and 5 per cent on national minimum rates. In the coalfields, Mr. Arthur Scargill described a 9.13 per cent offer as wholly insufficient. Page 2

## CND fights off extreme left

Mr. John Cox, a leading communist, was defeated for the post of chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and resolutions designed to move the CND towards the extreme left were defeated at the annual conference. Page 2

## Private steelmen seek state aid

Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, is under pressure to announce possible government aid to bail out the recession-hit independent steelmaking companies. A Cabinet committee will discuss whether such a move is justified later this week. Page 13

## Nasa worried by shuttle future

The curtailed flight of the space shuttle Columbia, which landed safely at the weekend, has renewed fears at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of budget cuts and the possibility of increased control of the project by the Department of Defence. Page 6

## Russia rebuked by Communists

The Congress of the Communist Party of Great Britain passed a motion condemning the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and urging the withdrawal of Russian troops. An amendment backing the invasion was defeated. Congress report, page 3

## EEC divisions highlighted

The European commissioners have spent the weekend in private session reviewing progress in their plan to reshape the EEC. But not a single decision has been taken, and the Rome-Bonn initiative for European unity has only high-lighted divisions. Page 7

## Stockman on Reaganomics

"Reaganomics", the economic policies of the present White House, were under fire before the President's budget director, David Stockman, voiced his doubts last week in *The Atlantic Monthly*. Today, *Business News* publishes an account of that interview, and comments on prospects for the United States economy. Page 15

## China aids GLC

The Greater London Council has raised a £12m loan on the international money market which includes a £2.5m contribution from the Bank of China. The money will be spent on housing or transport. Diary, page 10

Diary, page 10

Letters: On the Civil Service Department, from Sir Ian Bancroft and Sir John Herberg, and Mr. Peter Jay; housing, from the Right Rev. Gerald Ellison and others.

Leading articles: Ulster; Crosby

Features, pages 8, 10: How can the IRA claim to be a political force?; farewell to the nuclear powered aircraft; nuclear weapons in Europe; the realities behind the forthcoming disarmament talks

Obituary, page 12: The Rev. Robert Bradford, MP, Professor Sir Douglas Hubble, Mr. William James

Syria: An eight-page Special Report on a frontline Arab state with a crucial role to play in any Middle East peace settlement

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# Prior asks for calm, Paisley wants action

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

Leading British and Irish politicians united in a call for calm yesterday after the murder of the Rev. Robert Bradford, official Unionist MP for South Belfast, in his constituency on Saturday.

The killing which marks a sinister change of tactics by the Provisional IRA, raised the appalling prospect of retaliatory attacks on senior Roman Catholic and Protestant figures. Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, flew to Belfast on Saturday night to talk to senior Army and police officers. He called on "loyalists" to stay calm and added: "The more provocation there is, the more reaction, the more we are playing into the hands of the IRA. The worst possible thing would be for a reaction against what has happened."

Similar calls came from moderate politicians of both sides of the sectarian fence in Northern Ireland. In Dublin Dr. Garret FitzGerald, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, appealed to "loyalists" not to retaliate.

He attributed the attack to an attempt to disrupt the Anglo-Irish talks but insisted that both governments were determined to continue the search for a solution. He said the intention was also to create tension among Protestants and to stimulate counteraction against the minority Catholic community.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, using his renowned style of innuendo and half-suggestion, promised from the pulpit of his Free Presbyterian Church in Ravenhill Road, Belfast yesterday that next Monday would be a "Day of Action" in Ulster against the developing Dublin and Westminster accord.

Notably, Mr. Paisley made no direct reference to the murder of his friend, Mr. Bradford. Although consistently threatening a violent Protestant backlash against Britain's "betrayal" of Ulster, Mr. Paisley has made a point of keeping his distance from those actively engaged in violence.

The IRA tactics seem designed to provoke sectarian strife in order to establish its self-appointed role as defender of the Catholic ghettos. It is also attempting to raise morale after the chaotic end of the Maze Prison hunger strike and to scupper the improving relations between Dublin and Westminster.

Mr. Paisley MP has been murdered in 12 years of civil strife and it will be some days before it is known whether Protestant paramilitary leaders will pick up the gauntlet and plunge Northern Ireland into a new and particularly vicious civil war.

There were some immediate signs, however, of a backlash.

Over the past decade Sir Michael has prosecuted a number of important Provisional IRA trials in Britain. Yesterday he said that he thought an attack was "always on the cards" and added that there was a limit to what security arrangements could be made.

He said the bomb had done an enormous amount of damage and he would now find a new home.

There have been reports that a man was seen running from the area, a quiet suburban road, at the time of the bomb but Scotland Yard has not issued any description. Last night the police would not comment on the possibility that the surveillance equipment did not cover the rear where the bomb was planted.

Mr. Carter-Ruck said yesterday that he would vigorously resist the writ. He would also be reporting the circumstances to the Law Society.

One of the partners not consulted was Mr. Carter-Ruck's daughter, Mrs. Julia Bayfield. Another partner, Mr. Harold Horsfall-Turner, has issued a statement objecting to the issue of the writ without consulting him.

Mr. Carter-Ruck, a well-known solicitor in the field of "libel" and "defamation" law, explained in a statement yesterday: "From the end of the year I shall, at my request, be leaving Oswald Hickson, Collier & Co. with a number of my colleagues and staff to practise under the name of Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners."

The reason for this is a partnership dispute which has caused the resignation of the equity partners, including me, and salaried partners, either to have left or to be leaving the firm.

The writ was issued without the knowledge, consent or authority of the partners, seeking in the writ's name an injunction to restrain me from making representations, I have never made or sought to make, relating to the firm's affairs.

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Fit for a princess: on Wednesday the Princess of Wales will turn on the Christmas lights in Regent Street, London, which had a weekend rehearsal. Next day, Miss World will turn on Oxford Street's 50,000 lights.

## McEnroe loses his temper and the match

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

John McEnroe, the Wimbledon and United States champion, was fined a total of \$700 (about £400) for two separate offences (with ball and racket) when Jimmy Connors beat him 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 in 31 hours in the singles final of the Benson and Hedges Tennis Tournament at Wimbledon yesterday.

Connors was fined \$400 (about £220) for obscenity, but McEnroe's case was more serious. "Fouling" appeal fines will take McEnroe's total for 12 months beyond the permissible limit for what are quickly known as "minor" offences and he would therefore incur an automatic 21-day suspension.

Next Friday a three-man committee of arbitration will make their judgment about McEnroe's appeal against the fine or \$5,000 (about £2,750) imposed on him for the "major" offence of "deliberately bringing the game into disrepute during the last summer's Wimbledon".

Unlike such celebrities as, for example, Brian Eno, McEnroe plays four weeks of tournament tennis in Britain every year—Wimbledon, plus the tournaments at Queen's Club and Wembley. But this year's Wimbledon, and Wembley events have so seriously clouded his career, that in future he may be more wary of British tournaments.

Yesterday's Wimbledon final contained some thrilling tennis, but was marred by the arrogant conduct of both players, especially McEnroe. McEnroe and Connors were rude to the umpire, a Hammersmith schoolmaster called John Pannoy. Both incurred fines. The general ambience of the match had more in common with the excesses of prize-fighting than the traditions of tennis.

After his victory, Connors told the media: "I was very unfair on McEnroe. They should buy their tickets, sit down and shut up," he said.

Connors also believed that some event, the umpire had told him, that was very unsettling.

However, Mr. Pannoy, the umpire, defended all his actions.

It is all a matter of degree of judgment of what is going on out there, and I was absolutely clear in my mind that McEnroe was overstepping the mark. If I would not change a thing although, of course, I would be happy to have eradicated some of the mis-calling.

Match report, page 18

## A 'Times' interview with the German Chancellor Schmidt says he is worried by disarray among US leaders

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Nov. 15

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has voiced his concern to *The Times* about the recent contradictory statements by American leaders on the possibility of a limited war in Europe.

"I would rather like to have more harmony in the concert from Washington," he said in an interview. "That would certainly be better for the West German audience."

The Chancellor was referring to President Reagan's remarks suggesting that a limited nuclear war in Europe might be possible. This was followed by conflicting statements from Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr. Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, over supposed plans for a warning nuclear explosion by NATO in the event of a Soviet invasion.

Mr. Schmidt said that during Mr. Reagan's visit to Bonn next week he would continue his efforts to bring about a meeting between the Soviet leader and President Reagan. "I think it is necessary that they meet and understand from each other that the other guy is not a war-honger."

The lack of communication between the Americans and the Soviet Union since the invasion of Afghanistan and the dispatch of threatening statements from Moscow and Washington were not very conducive to good sleep in West Germany, he said.

Clearly the root of his problem is communication. This is why Herr Schmidt, alone among Western leaders, went to Moscow after the invasion of Afghanistan last year, and why now Mr. Brezhnev, person non grata in most other countries, is visiting West Germany next week.

Mr. Schmidt said his task as he saw it was to explain to the leader of the Soviet Union what were the concerns, and desires, of the West and what was the meaning of the Western proposals in the forthcoming negotiations on intermediate-range missiles and on other arms control measures.

"Certainly we would also try to answer questions which the Soviets might have. It is obvious to me that they cannot clearly read the moral of the Western's demand and proposals. They cannot clearly read the moral of the Western's demand and proposals. They cannot clearly read the moral of the Western's demand and proposals."

Continued on back page, col 6

## Benn says he will carry on the fight

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr. Wedgwood Benn served notice yesterday on Mr. Michael Foot that he will continue to wage his battle for a clear parliamentary party commitment to the policies laid down by the House of Commons in the 1974 declaration followed an interview with Mr. Foot on BBC television in Scotland, in which the Labour leader stated: "To have divisions or internal feuds continuing in our ranks, I think is a tragedy."

Mr. Foot said that it would be almost criminal if the wrangling of the last year was maintained over the next year, and he added that he had received presidential support in the party for the stand he had taken against Mr. Benn.

"The party throughout the country is sick to death of these kinds of feuds and arguments and I believe that the sick-death section of the party, and they cover right, left and centre, want to see an effective Opposition in the House of Commons presenting the possibility of an effective new government," Mr. Foot said.

But Mr. Benn, having heard the Foot interview in BBC Radio four's *World at One* last week, said: "I don't think anybody can be asked to give up their commitment to conference policies as a price for going. It is a matter of principle, and I am getting massive support on this debate."

It is clear that Mr. Benn intends to use his position on the party executive's Home Policy Committee to challenge home his attack, regardless of the result of the Thursday's Shadow Cabinet reshuffle.

"At the moment there is not a single Member of Parliament, nor myself or anyone else, who can say confidently when they go canvassing or go to meetings that we are not a government-in-waiting," Mr. Benn said.

"We can attack the Tories, but that is not enough. We have got to be constructive. He said that he wanted complete clarification of Labour's defence strategy, a really vigorous and radical policy to deal with unemployment, and British withdrawal from the Common Market."

Many MPs now feel that Mr. Benn is playing a longer political game with his eye on the election after next. For while his colleagues at Westminster have been isolated, his support remains strong among constituency party members.

Mr. Benn has more than three dozen votes in the Shadow Cabinet election, the rift between the parliamentary party and the constituencies could widen.

Continued on back page, col 6

## Tory Party in struggle with Inland Revenue

By Marcel Berlins, Legal Correspondent

A tax claim brought by the Inland Revenue against the Conservative Central Office has caused a row, and has significant implications for the legal status of the Conservative Party, the ownership of its funds, and even the enforceability of the rules for the selection of the party leader.

The Court of Appeal is expected early this week to finish hearing an appeal on a claim by the Revenue that Conservative Central Office owes it more than £100,000 tax for 1972-76. In a decision yet to be made, the court will have to rule on the party's legal status.

The Revenue's case is that the party is in law an "unincorporated association" and therefore liable to corporation tax at 32 per cent. Conservative Central Office has claimed that it is only liable for 30 per cent income tax.

In 1978 the Income Tax Commissioners ruled that the party was an unincorporated association, made up of members of local constituency associations, and of members of the House of Commons.

There was a conflict, the commissioners said, between the party members to be found in the rules of the constituency associations, in the rules of the National Union of Conservative Associations, and in the rules which regulate the party meetings and the selection of the leaders.

In 1980 Central Office successfully appealed to the High Court, which decided that there was no "unincorporated association" within the meaning of the law.

Last week Mr. Andrew Park, QC, argued in the appeal court that the party was an "unincorporated association" within the meaning of the law.

Continued on back page, col 6

Match report, page 18



## Improved offer in engineering pay talks likely

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Engineering employers are likely to hold out the prospect of an improved offer of between 4 and 5 per cent at pay talks affecting almost two million workers today.

Union leaders are expecting a marginal improvement in the Engineering Employers' Federation's present offer of 3.16 per cent increases on national minimum rates after the 3.8 per cent settlement at BL Cars.

The employers may not table a fresh offer at all if the unions are adamant that they will reject anything which falls well short of their claim for rises to match the level of inflation.

An improved offer is likely to be in line with the present level of plant-by-plant settlements in the industry, which sets minimums and most cases bargains locally on actual earnings. That is running at between 4 and 5 per cent.

An increase of that level would be considerably higher than the margin between the BL and engineering settlements this year and last. BL, which left the federation for bargaining purposes after the national engineering pay dispute in 1979, settled in 1980 with its car workers for 6.8 per cent. The federation settlement on minimum rates was 8.2 per cent.

The federation's talks are the highest in the private sector and a settlement of less than 4 per cent would be a considerable fall to the Government's hopes of its public service pay targets having some impact in manufacturing industry.

The present offer would raise the weekly skilled minimum rate by £2.50 to £81.50 a week. Earnings on average are said by the employers to be £114 for skilled and £86 for unskilled for a 39-hour week.

### Scargill wants more

Left-wing moves to mobilize coalfield pressure for a significant improvement in the miners' 9.13 per cent pay offer gathered momentum yesterday when Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, described the offer as "wholly insufficient and divisive".

Mr Scargill, the left's chosen candidate in next month's election for the union's presidency, said in a campaigning speech to miners in Pontypridd, South Wales, that the National Coal Board would save £50m from a recent 10,000 drop in manpower and gain £250m from the most recent price increase. Mr Scargill said the union should say there was no "way we are going to deviate from our conference decisions". The union's annual conference in Jersey, this summer endorsed the miners' 23.7 per cent pay claim.

Mr Scargill said the union needed a new right-wing president "like a tree needs Dutch elm disease".

Ford management and union leaders will hold fresh talks this week in an attempt to avert

what union leaders have claimed would be a "major dispute" over the company's offer of 4.5 per cent tied to efficiency measures.

Shop stewards representing Shell and Esso tanker drivers are to meet again this week on the industry's eight per cent pay offer following decisions at Texaco for rejection and BP for acceptance.

### More BL lay-offs

Hundreds more BL workers will be laid off today because of the strike over rest time.

BL said yesterday it was expected that the lay-offs would be spread around factories other than the Longbridge plant in Birmingham where 2,200 men are on strike and 5,000 have been laid off.

About 300 men at the Dursley Lane transmission factory, Birmingham, have been laid off because of the strike, and more factories will be affected this week.

The men who are angry over the company's efforts to pay for a reduction in the working week from 40 to 39 hours by cutting rest time are not due to meet again until Thursday.

### 'Party with miners'

Mr John Lyons, leader of the electricity supply industry's key power engineers, yesterday advised management not to pay any special heed to the Government's 4 per cent public sector pay guidelines.

Mr Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association, which has 45,000 members, writes in his union's journal that his members would certainly not be seeking less than the miners eventually get.

He writes: "Pay negotiations in the industry are historically and organically related to those that take place in coal mining, and it is already clear that a settlement in the mines is going to be above 4 per cent."

### Ferry strike spreads

Seamen on the Mersey stranded two ships bound for the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland yesterday as the dispute over the P & O Liverpool-Belfast ferry shutdown spread further.

(Our Liverpool Correspondent writes). Eleven ships are now affected.

The two ships are part of the Barrow-based Fisher company and are the first outside the P & O line to be stopped. Crews on both vessels, the Solway Fisher and Orwell Fisher, decided to join the dispute after an approach from National Union of Seamen officials from the Ulster Queen and Ulster Prince ferries.

The Solway Fisher, which was due to sail to Belfast, and the Dublin-bound Orwell Fisher, were both laid off.

## Whitehall union chief raises poll doubts

By Our Labour Correspondent

Mrs Kate Losinska, president of the Civil and Public Services Association, alleged yesterday that there had been irregularities in elections for the posts of general secretary and treasurer.

Mrs Losinska, who is likely to convene the union's full executive tomorrow, said last night she was considering asking for a rerun of the ballot after what she said was an abnormally high number of complaints.

In the more important of the two polls Mr Alistair Graham, the union's present deputy general secretary, is seeking re-election against Mr John Maccreadie, a supporter of the Trotskyite Militant Tendency for the post of general secretary. Mrs Losinska said last night that there were complaints of abuses which would favour the left wing candidates.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, the retiring general secretary, and Mr Graham, the present deputy general secretary who is being backed by the executive for the post of general secretary, said last night that they were unaware of any detailed complaints of irregularities which would justify a rerun of the election.

Mrs Losinska said last night that there had been cases of both unusually high and unusually low turnouts in the election from meetings of some of the union's 1,000 branches, and these would have to be investigated. She said there had been a wide ranging variety of complaints about the conduct of the ballot.

She said she had been told that the Whitehall branch of the Defence branch only six of 3,000 members appeared to have voted. At one West London branch where there had been more votes than the number of members entitled to vote the ballot had been abandoned.

Mr Graham said last night: "I have not had electoral malpractices brought to my attention and I am not making any formal complaints at this stage."

Mr Thomas has written to Mr Maccreadie asking for an explanation of the circumstances under which literature supporting his election campaign was sent out by the Civil Aviation Authority group, of which Mr Maccreadie is an officer. Mr Maccreadie said last night that the 14-man group executive had decided on its own accord to support him as candidate and had made a collection of about £70 to finance the distribution.

Mr Maccreadie said that the union's right wing had made the accusations in a last minute attempt to influence the third and final week of polling which ends this Friday.

The TUC will tell the Megaw inquiry on Civil Service pay today that the Government should not arbitrarily interfere with any new pay system.

The inquiry was set up under the chairmanship of Sir John Megaw following the five-month strikes in the service over pay earlier this year.



## A wine that continues to amuse

Four members of The Parachute Regiment's Red Devils freefall team keeping the chill out with a glass of Beaujolais Nouveau yesterday after landing in a lake bearing bottles of the wine.

Their arrival near the Freshman Pond Hotel at Churt, near Farnham, Surrey, was preceded several hours earlier, at just after midnight, by another group of Red Devils who plummeted to the Queen's Hotel at Farnborough, Hampshire.

By such events, Beaujolais Nouveau continued to amuse by its presumption (Robin Young writes). It is many years since the wine, in complicity with Mr Egon Ronay, the noted gastronome, and certain *sommeliers* in France, exposed the truth that the whole Beaujolais race is founded in fiction.

We did it by producing several bottles of the supposedly unobtainable wine in

London three days before its official release to Britain. Those who raced according to the rules—leaving Belleville in the Beaujolais at midnight with the wine in an assortment of 42 high-powered vehicles, veteran cars and London taxis—straggled into London during the morning to find that they had been well and truly beaten by those who jumped the gun.

Several had to suffer the chagrin of speeding to their destination past signs saying "Beaujolais Nouveau on sale now".

The 1981 vintage was hailed as superb in Beaujolais, but the consensus yesterday after the excitement had ended was that however enjoyable the racing, flying and skydiving, the wine itself was a disappointment: acidic and lacking in fruit.

## National Trust appeals to businessmen for cash

By Tony Samstag

The National Trust has asked businessmen to supplement the "magnificent" from its membership and the public, which it says is no longer sufficient to resist the inroads of inflation.

Mr Angus Stirling, deputy director general, told *The Times* yesterday: "The approach we intend to make to the business community is very important." That approach was signalled by Lord Gibson, the chairman, during the Trust's annual meeting in Bourne-mouth at the weekend.

Among the projects that might benefit from an increase in revenue are the purchase of Land's End and acceptance of the largest bequest offered to the trust, namely 15,000 acres in Dorset comprising Corfe Castle, part of Studland Bay and the ancient monument of Badbury Rings.

Land's End is on the market at £1.75m; the trust hopes to announce its decision on

### IN BRIEF

#### 16 in peril on stricken trawler

Winds gusting to more than 100 mph last night battered the French trawler *Ludovic-Jego*, which was being towed to Stornoway, in the Hebrides, after sending out a distress signal when she was in the Atlantic, 140 miles west of Lewis.

The trawler, which has a crew of 16, was being towed by another French trawler.

#### Print dispute peace

An interim settlement has been agreed in a dispute involving 200 members of the National Graphical Association, which has stopped production at the "East Midlands" Allied Press group headquarters in Peterborough, for two weeks.

#### Christmas gift thefts

Parents are encouraging children to steal their own Christmas presents from stores because they know that if the children are caught, penalties will be less severe or charges will not be brought. Devon and Cornwall police say.

## FEARS OVER POLICE RACE ATTITUDES

The police are being urged to look into the question of setting up special and racist squads to investigate urgently racial attacks against blacks and Asians.

The call comes from the Commission for Racial Equality which says that the police should recognize racial harassment as a serious phenomenon requiring concerted action. "They should record all incidents and be in a position to take action to prevent such harassment," the commission says.

The statement, which is to appear in this month's issue of the *Joint Council Against Racism*, the publication of the all-party committee against racism, says the commission is very concerned about the level of racial harassment.

### SILENCE OVER SMOKING CLAIM

Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, was saying yesterday about a report that he sought to lessen the Government's campaign against smoking.

The report in *The Observer*, alleged that Mr Thatcher approached Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of Health, and said that the report would be badly affected if its sponsorship were threatened.

In September, Sir George Young, minister in charge of negotiations with the tobacco companies, was moved from the Department of Health.

### ROYAL COUPLE IN SECLUSION

Fifteen hundred people were disappointed when they went to Sandringham church in Norfolk yesterday in the hope of seeing the Prince and Princess of Wales. Instead of attending service, the couple spent the day in the Queen's secluded 10-bedroom Woodfarm House, at Wolferton, three miles from Sandringham.

On Saturday night, they celebrated the Prince of Wales's 33rd birthday with a dinner

Overseas selling prices  
Austria 6.25, Belgium 80.00, Canada 2.00, Denmark 2.00, France 2.00, Germany 2.00, Greece 2.00, Ireland 2.00, Italy 2.00, Japan 2.00, Korea 2.00, Luxembourg 2.00, Netherlands 2.00, Norway 2.00, Portugal 2.00, Spain 2.00, Sweden 2.00, Switzerland 2.00, Taiwan 2.00, Thailand 2.00, United Kingdom 2.00, USA 2.00, Yugoslavia 2.00.

## CND fights off threat by extreme left wing

By Clifford Longley

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament emerged from its annual conference in London yesterday well armed against the slings and arrows of its enemies, who have accused it of being the puppet of left-wing manipulators.

A leading Communist was yesterday defamed for the post of chairman, the newly elected national council will have a wider political spread, and resolutions designed to move the CND towards the extreme left were rejected.

The allegation that CND takes money of Soviet origin was not only rebutted, but clearly refuted by speaker after speaker, and "Russian roubles" was a catchword in joke of the conference.

Monsieur Bruce Kent, the general secretary, said: "Dr Lums of Nato has lied in his claim that western peace movements have received massive funding from the Soviet Union; but mud sticks. In various forms all round the country it has been falsely claimed that CND is in receipt of such findings."

The conference decided not to revive the Aldermaston marches, but to concentrate on a day of action next June and a policy statement on "non-violent direct action", drafted by the national council, was agreed without dissent.

The example in everyone's mind was the peace camp at Greenham Common, near Newbury, where campers are obstructing plans to develop the site as a base for American cruise missiles. The campers received much moral support and the proceeds of two collections.

The debate did, however, tend to be dominated by the more extreme-minded activists, with the Socialist Workers' Party and the Militant Tendency in evidence, but the results of voting belied such single-mindedness. Resolutions demanding that CND should adopt Jobs Not Bombs as its main official slogan, and that it should make the union and labour movements priority targets for campaigning, were rejected.

A more moderate statement of ambition towards the latter was adopted, after amendments had broadened and softened it; and

The book explains that when a woman's vaginal mucus is sticky and produces a sensation of dryness, it acts as an impenetrable barrier to sperm cells. At such times a woman is infertile.

When the mucus is slippery and wet, however, usually for about three to six days in a cycle, microscopic analysis reveals hundreds of tiny channels which aid the passage of the sperm through the vagina and the cervix to the fallopian tubes, where fertilisation occurs.

The book, which gives instructions about how to record the cycle and includes eight pages of colour charts and photographs, could also be useful to women trying to become pregnant, because it explains the signs of the most fertile period.

The Billings Method, controlling fertility without drugs or devices, by Dr Evelyn Billings and Ann Westmore (Allen Lane, £5.95 ISBN 0 7138 1454 8).

### Science report

## Tribal birth control needs no drugs

By Annabel Ferriman  
Health Services  
Correspondent

A rediscovered method of birth control, which involves no drugs or devices, is being promoted in a book published today.

The method, in which women observe the state of their vaginal mucus to discover their fertile period, has been studied and developed by an Australian couple, Evelyn and John Billings, who are both doctors.

It has been practised by tribal groups in Australia and Africa for thousands of years but the Billings think it could appeal to many women in the developed world who, for religious, medical or other reasons, do not want to use the contraceptive pill or other methods.

They claim it is more effective than the traditional rhythm method, used by many Roman Catholics, which involves keeping a temperature chart and judging when they have ovulated by a rise in temperature.

In studies of 875 women using the method in New Zealand, the Irish Republic, India, the Philippines and El Salvador, the pregnancy rate was about 20 per cent, but Dr Evelyn Billings claims in the book that the rate dropped from the method and had intercourse during the fertile period. Another 5 per cent were incorrectly taught, she says.

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## EEC 'SPY' CAN STAY IN BRITAIN

By Robin Young

Mr Stasley Adams, the former honorary British consul imprisoned after exposing illegal price fixing by his employers, the Swiss drug firm Hoffman-La Roche, has been granted the right of permanent residence in Britain.

Mr Adams is a Maltese, although he held a British passport since 1974. He became independent. He had been honorary British consul in Colombia. As a senior executive of the drugs company he supplied information which led to Hoffman-La Roche being convicted of breaking the EEC's competition laws by price fixing in the vitamins market.

He was charged with economic espionage and violating Swiss industrial secrecy. He spent three months in prison in 1974 before being given a one-year suspended jail sentence. His wife committed suicide while he was in prison.

### CORRECTION

The membership of Consumers' Association is 615,000, not 615, as it appeared in *The Times* of November 5.

## The original image processor.



## Some improvements.

Image processing has come a long way. With the help of a computer, it is now possible to clarify, enlarge, reduce or amend any picture that has been generated electronically: by TV camera, satellite sensor, industrial scanner, x-ray or electron microscope.

In addition to mining, petrochemicals, forestry and agriculture, manufacturing industry too exploits image processing. Scanning devices are increasingly used to monitor mass-produced articles at high speed and with complete accuracy. They can recognise bruised fruit or spot blemishes in materials, for example.

But now - working closely with Cambridge University - Cadcentre has developed an even more advanced image processing system called GEMS.

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# Communists lay claim to power in Labour Party

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Labour's hard left has united with the Communist Party and is demanding backdoor entry of Communists to positions of direct influence and power inside the Labour Party.

The Communist Party's 37th national congress on Saturday rejected a firm proposal for party affiliation to the Labour Party. A statement from the party's national executive said: "Affiliation is a long-term perspective, not an immediate issue."

But Mr Gordon McLennan, the party's general secretary, told delegates at the Camden Centre in London that the time had come for the development of Communist-Labour unity.

He added: "What the labour movement needs is not an extension of bans, but an ending of those that already exist, including the ban which denies trade unionists the right to elect whom they wish from their political levy-paying members to represent them in Labour Party gatherings."

The significance of this demand was underlined yesterday in an interview given by Mr George Galloway, chairman of the Labour Party in Scotland, to the magazine *Scottish Marxist*.

Mr Galloway said: "The first demand has to be the right of affiliated organizations to send representatives of their choice to the councils of the Labour Party; to its conference, to its general management committees."

The Communist Party executive said that curbs on the right of Communist trade unionists who paid the political levy to speak and vote within their unions on matters affecting the Labour Party were an attack on union democracy.

Mr McLennan pointed out that united action had been taken over the past year by communists and the Labour left. He praised "joint activity" of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, which represents the Bennite wing of the Labour Party.

□ The congress condemned the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and urged Russian troops be withdrawn (the Press Association reports).

The decision was taken after a heated debate. An amendment supported by about 50 branches, backing the invasion but calling for the earliest withdrawal of troops, was defeated by 157 to 115 votes.

The congress held every two years, had not previously discussed Afghanistan. A party spokesman said the decision was in line with the international Communist movement's policy that "country should not interfere in the internal affairs of another."

## Food cost warning by Walker

Consumers may enjoy cheaper food prices in the shops if Britain leaves the EEC, but that will be more than offset by higher taxes, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, says in an article published today.

He says it is wrong to assume that consumers would be massively better off without the EEC's agricultural policy. Without EEC finance the Government would have to subsidize farmers through deficiency payments, he says in *Barclays Bank's Quarterly Review*.

It is clear that if deficiency payments lowered shop prices, which they would, the gain to consumers would in large measure be offset by high taxes.

"This is the real equation and if it were not so British agriculture would be condemned to contract and our food production decline."

□ In the run-up to Christmas frozen turkeys will be on sale at around, or below, last year's prices, the British Turkey Federation said yesterday. Fresh birds may cost more because of recent increases in grain and fuel costs.

## Dismissed BL man faces defeat

By Our Labour Correspondent

Mr Derek Robinson, the former Longbridge convenor dismissed by BL two years ago, is facing the prospect of defeat in the closely fought union election in the Midlands.

In a contest for an Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' post as a divisional organizer he is expected to lose to Mr Dennis Duffy, brother of the union president.

Results in one of the biggest series of union polls for many years will not be announced until tomorrow but the union's right wing is confident that Mr Duffy has defeated Mr Robinson, a Communist who was dismissed by BL for attacking the company's recovery plan.

The union's left and right wings have closely contested more than 41 postal ballots for important union posts, including the succession of Sir John Boyd as general secretary of the union.

All five of the main national elections will go to a second ballot next spring unless they produce an overall victor in the first ballot.

## Peril of time-share villas

Britons thinking of buying a time-share in a Spanish holiday home should beware of the traditional conveyancing system known as "escrituras," Mr James Edmonds, a London solicitor says.

As many as 50 "escrituras" are needed for each property, as individual holidaymakers buy the right to occupy it for specific weeks every year. That causes long delays at the land registry, Mr Edmonds says in the *Law Society's Gazette*.

The article says the British system, now increasingly used in Spain where buyers become members of a club, has the advantages of easy and cheap transfer of ownership, proper financial controls, a ready-made pressure group and often control by the members.

## Vision that is vital to the BBC

By Kenneth Gosling

The next Director-General of the BBC should be chosen by Christmas. The task of sifting the applications, nominations and suggestions for the £40,000-a-year post will begin shortly after the closing date on Tuesday.

It will be undertaken by the nine men and three women on the board of governors, chaired by Mr George Howard, a governor for 10 years and chairman of the board for 15 months.

He talked to me about the qualities he expects of the BBC's chief executive and of the problems he, or she, will have to tackle as broadcasting squares up to the challenges of the next decade.

"Vision and imagination, those are the qualities that are going to be the most important. And enthusiasm, that is a great quality. I value it very highly indeed."

Sir Ian Trethowan's successor takes over next July and Mr Howard sees no reason to wait longer than necessary before making the name public. "It removes uncertainties if you do it sooner rather than later," he said.

To the qualities he lists, Mr Howard adds, unspokenly, an ability to bear enormous pressure.

"What one is looking for is a capacity to prepare the BBC

Mr George Howard: BBC must look to future

for those pressures which will come in the 1990s rather than the 1980s, to make sure it is well ahead of the field and poised to take advantage of the opportunities that are offered. He will not, therefore, be only an administrator or chief journalist.

"I am under no illusion about the pressures. None of us can be sure about the pressure of cable television, although I cannot believe it will have the penetration it has in the United States. The video cassette is mainly for time-shift purposes, recording a programme you cannot see at the time it goes out.

"I do not see people going out and buying films, there is still the experience of going to the cinema, which is quite different, but they will be hiring them like mad."

"But there is a curious corollary: watching a video recording of a sports programme is quite different from seeing it when everyone

# Platform pollsters say Williams holds the stage

From John Chartres, Liverpool

The three main parties in the Crosby by-election intend to publish their first canvass results early this week. Until then, predictions about the outcome can be based only on subjective impressions or hunches, but some significant pointers are emerging.

An enormous level of interest is being shown. There was the unprecedented spectacle of 1,000 people attending and 500 being turned away from Mrs Shirley Williams's first public meeting on the fourth day of her campaign.

The Liberal-Social Democratic alliance candidate, the focus of most of the attention, both from the electorate and from the international press corps. But she is careful to admit that much of this is due to curiosity about her party and about herself and that large attendances at meetings should not be converted into potential votes.

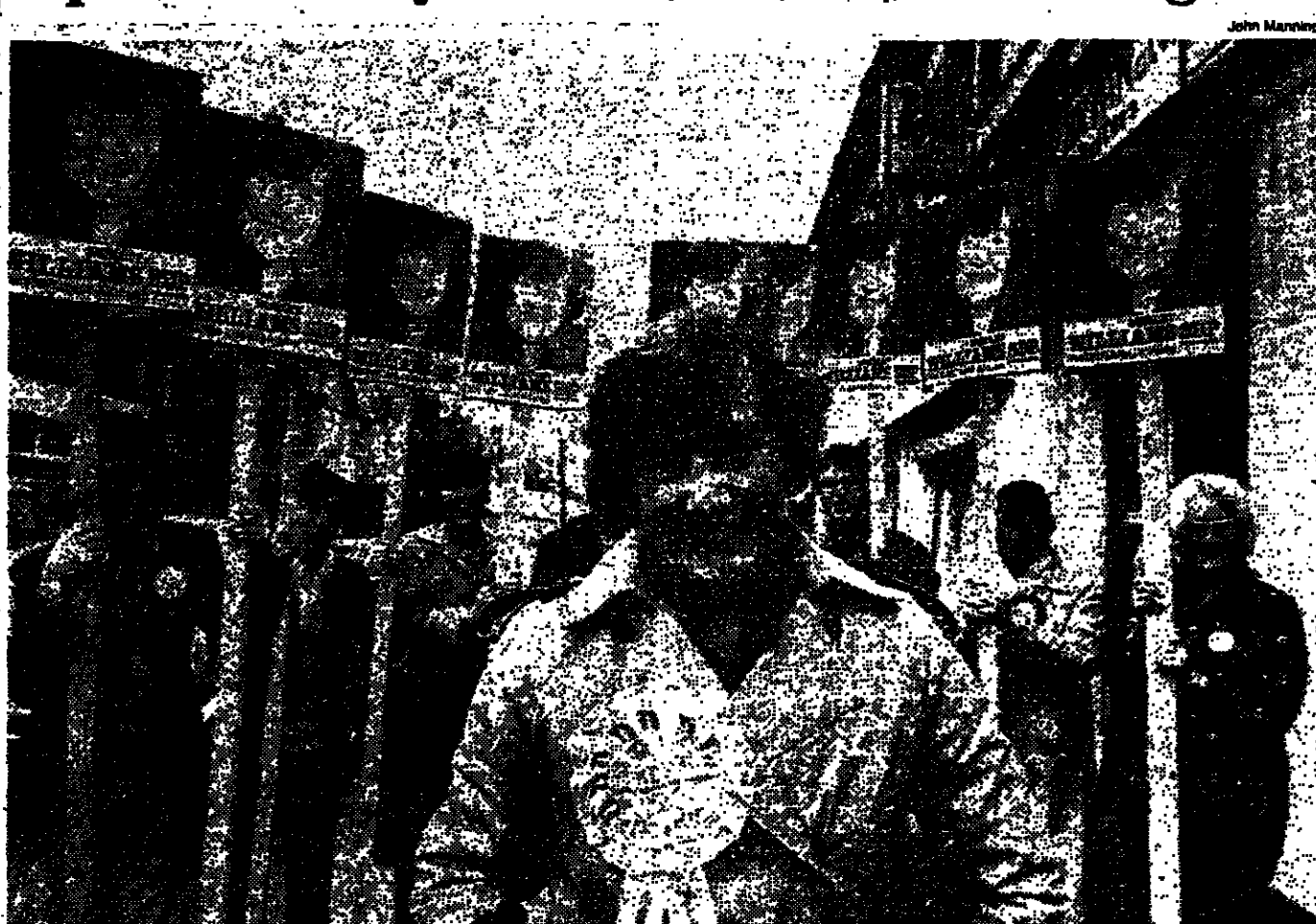
Psephologists say that a swing to the alliance of about 20 per cent as was recorded at Warrington and Croydon, could win her the seat by a thousand or two. One enterprising mathematician with a pocket calculator has scaled up the results of a local authority by-election won in Maghull by SDF, from Conservative last month, to show that if the pattern was repeated on November 26, it would just put Mrs Williams in.

Mrs Williams's own forecast remains a cautious "between herself and Mr John Butcher, the Conservative, and the apparently unassailable 19,272 majority of the late Sir Graham Page."

Numerous straw polls have been taken, the platforms of the Liverpool-Southport commuter railway line being favourite venues for the exercises. They all give Mrs Williams a very good chance.

A study of the age structure of the complicated constituency, in effect split three ways into the townships of the pre-1974 Crosby borough, Formby and Maghull, suggests "an empty quarter" of farm-land may be important.

Taken overall the constituency is a youthful one with a high proportion of middle-



Top of the poles and the polls in Crosby: Mrs Williams with her supporters.

class young married, first-home owners whom Mrs Williams sees as her prime targets.

It is thought that the real battlefield will be in "old Crosby", particularly in the best-heeled area of Blundell-sands, which contains the broad, leafy avenues, the four and more bedroom detached and semi-detached houses, the two-car families and where an atmosphere of unalterable calm, not to mention placidity, can be felt.

It is in this area where the two hottest local issues dominate, private education and abortion. Mrs Williams seems to be on the losing side of both in spite of what some see as equivocation in her earlier expressed views about private schools and the fact that she is a Roman Catholic.

The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child has labelled Mr Butcher as its preferred candidate. Mr Butcher does not want to make too much of it, except to say he is in favour of tightening the present abortion laws.

Just how significant those special issues will be remains to be seen, but it should be remembered that most of the estimated 25 per cent of Roman Catholics in the electorate, live in the Crosby-Blundellsands heartland. They are members and descendants of very old families who have embraced the Conservative cause for a great many years.

The southern end of "old Crosby" has gone down-market considerably in recent years, partly because it bor-

ders on the Boole dockland. The old borough has lost 10 per cent of its population since 1970 and the church ward at the southern extremity has lost nearly 12½ per cent.

The three main parties have arranged heavy guest lists in the coming week. Today the Conservatives hope to have Mr Bowen Wells, MP for Hertford and Stevenage, who defeated Mrs Williams in 1973, in the area with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, addressing an evening meeting.

The Conservative's main attraction will be a week today when Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment and their man on Merseyside will address an evening meeting.

The alliance programme includes an important forum meeting on private education tonight with Dr David Owen booked for tomorrow night. Mr Roy Jenkins on Wednesday and Mr William Rodgers on Friday.

Labour's big night will be tomorrow when Mr Wedgwood Benn is due to address two meetings. Mr Michael Foot will be addressing a Labour rally on November 24.

Candidates: Mr Butcher (C), Mr Backhouse (Lab), Mrs Williams (Liberal-Social Democratic), Mr Williams (Liberal-Social Democratic), Mr Thomas (Liberal-Social Democratic), Mr Kennedy (Conservative), Mr Small (Liberal-Social Democratic), Mr Hume (Liberal-Social Democratic), Mr Barrett (Liberal-Social Democratic), Mr Rivington (Liberal-Social Democratic).

# Ambulance crew left woman, 86, to take bus

From Our Correspondent Sheffield

Ambulancemen refused to give a woman aged 86 a lift home from hospital with her sick husband but then made a special trip to deliver a walking stick, it was claimed yesterday. Now regional health officials are investigating why she was left to make her way home by bus.

The woman's husband, also aged 86, collapsed and was taken by ambulance to Sheffield's Royal Hallamshire Hospital, accompanied by his wife.

But after a check-up the man was told he could go home. Although the ambulance crew agreed to take him they refused to take his wife.

Later an ambulanceman arrived at the door to deliver a walking stick the man had left at the hospital.

The case was uncovered during a survey of ambulance services by Sheffield's Southern Community Health Council. It has now been reported to the Trent Regional Health Authority which runs the ambulance service in South Yorkshire. Mr Harry Trent, the council's secretary, said: "It would appear that it depends on the mood or the whim of the ambulance crew whether or not they carry anyone other than patients."

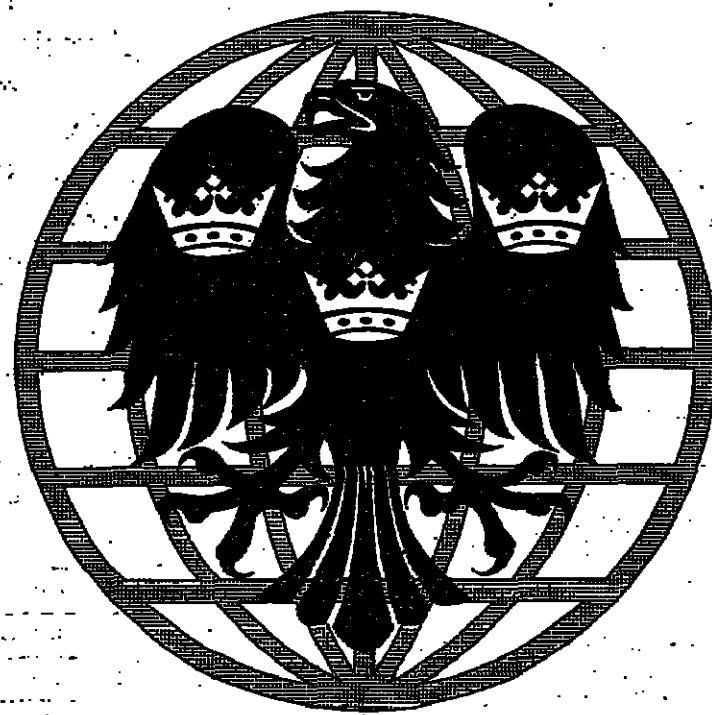
"What we are saying is that there ought to be some definite guidelines where elderly people are involved."

## SISTERS MEET 37 YEARS ON

Three sisters separated 37 years ago when they were put in different children's homes have been reunited. They are now seeking a fourth sister.

Mrs Kathleen Shepherd, aged 51, of Clunstone, Nottinghamshire, said after a week-end meeting with her sisters Mrs Ann Staley, aged 38, of Bolsover, Derbyshire, and Mrs Dorothy Kirby, aged 49, of Kirkby-in-Ashfield: "We are busy making up for lost time."

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## Lords ruling will clarify the law on contempt

By Frances Gibb

A test case opens in the House of Lords today over whether the Contempt of Court Act should prevent the disclosure of documents in legal proceedings although they have already been read out in open court.

The case, which will be watched closely by the press and legal profession, has been brought by Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer for the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCLC), who is challenging a Court of Appeal ruling earlier this year that she committed a gross contempt of court in showing to a journalist Home Office documents which had been read out in court.

The action for contempt, brought by the Home Office, stemmed from another action brought by a prisoner against the Home Office over his solitary confinement in the controversial and now disbanded control unit at Wakefield Prison.

Miss Harman, acting as the prisoner's solicitor, had successfully obtained about 800 confidential Home Office documents central to the case through the legal process of discovery. The Home Office resisted the release of the documents but the High Court found their release was in the public interest.

It was some of those documents which Miss Harman showed to a journalist after the case had concluded

but while judgement was pending. They formed the basis of an article in *The Guardian*.

The Court of Appeal, presided over by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, ruled that an undertaking, given by a solicitor, that documents obtained by discovery would not be used for any purpose other than that action, did not vanish when the documents were read out in open court.

Attempts to change the law on this point were unsuccessfully made during the passage of the Contempt of Court Bill through Parliament. But the Law Commission's report on breach of confidence published last month made clear its view that whether or not Miss Harman was in contempt in this case, the obligation of confidence did not apply to information which was in the public domain.

The Commission's report said: "We do not think that civil liability for breach of confidence should persist after the information to which the relevant obligation of confidence relates has been published in open court."

The House of Lords will clarify the law, if at some cost to the NCLC which is backing Miss Harman. The council has raised about £8,000 to fight the case and will need more.

The original action by the prisoner, Mr Michael Williams, comes before the Court of Appeal next week.

## Students seek £70-a-week grant

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

Student leaders are to meet Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary of State responsible for higher education, today to press for a 17.4 per cent increase in the student grant. That would bring the maximum grant to more than £2,000 a year or about £70 tax-free a week, during the academic year.

Mr David Aaronovitch, president of the National Union of Students, said that it would also be seeking clarification of reports that students were to bear the brunt of further proposed Government cutbacks in education spending.

"We are incredibly worried about recent press reports which tell of abolishing the £410 minimum award paid to all students regardless of their parents' income, of drastically increasing the parental contributions, and of limiting the increase in the student grant to 4 per cent or less," he said.

"The Government seems poised to inflict great hardship on students and their parents. The grant's real value is in danger of falling so steeply that only the wealthy will be able to go to college. Most students have already been forced to take out bank overdrafts; many are now living in real poverty."

In claiming a 17.4 per cent increase in grant, students were simply asking the Government to give them back the real income they had in 1978/79 when the Conservative Government came to power. Since then, inflation had outstripped the rise in grant by 20 per cent.

Furthermore, many universities and colleges were ask-

## My students live well on...



Poor diet: NUS view of Sir Keith Joseph

ing students to pay for services which had traditionally been provided free, such as field trips, health care registration, sporting facilities and even examinations. The rise in the cost of residence hall fees had been particularly crippling; they had gone up on average by between 15 and 25 per cent last year, while the student grant rose by only 7 per cent. Asked if students would like the Government to improve

## Over 14pc of British households 'in poverty'

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

At least one household in seven in Britain lives in poverty, despite 30 years of anti-poverty programmes, according to an independent study prepared for the European Commission and published today by the Policy Studies Institute.

The proportion of people living in poverty has not changed since the start of the welfare state, the study says. But present economic policies may worsen the position by both contributing to mass unemployment and by abandoning anti-poverty policy as a priority.

The study, one of nine on member states commissioned as part of the European anti-poverty programme, says that at least six million people in the United Kingdom are poor. The worst conditions are found in Northern Ireland, where poverty is 50 per cent higher than in the rest of the United Kingdom, unemployment and low wages are exceptionally high.

Poverty remains largely a problem of old age, but policies developed during the last 30 years have removed the elderly from destitution and offer the hope of real improvement. The Department of Anti-Poverty Policy in the United Kingdom, Richard Berthoud and Joan C. Brown, (Helmman Educational Books, £13.50 hardback, £6.50 paperback).

## Prisons: Top security Maze-style reforms sought in England

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prisoners' strikes, followed by a petition from 156 Parkhurst inmates, indicate growing tension in top security prisons.

The prisoners protest that they are being treated unfairly in comparison to those in jails in Northern Ireland, for which Mr James Prior, Secretary of State, has announced further reforms. The discontent is heightened by the apparent decision by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, to ditch the idea of automatic early release for prisoners serving shorter sentences.

Those in top security prisons are more likely to be serving long sentences, but the sense of injustice remains. The Parkhurst petition, sent to the National Prisoners' Movement (Prop), says: "We, the inmates of HMP Parkhurst demand that we be given equal status with other prisoners in the United Kingdom (ie. Northern Ireland). We demand the following: 30 per cent remission, own clothing, weekly visits and two letters a week."

The petition says that on October 25, Parkhurst inmates held a token 24-hour strike in support of those demands. On October 29, and again on October 28, Mr Keith Gibson, the regional director of prisons, visited the prison to discuss the demands.

The Prison Department confirmed on Friday that 140 prisoners at Parkhurst refused to work for one day in a passive demonstration on October 26. Prisoners at Hull, another top security prison, also went on token strike. But the department denied that Mr Gibson went specially to the prison to discuss the matter.

The message from Hull prisoners, passed on by Prop,

was: "Northern Ireland has had half remission for eight years. Hope for it has hung over us since then and we are organizing a 24 hour strike to let Mr Whitelaw know we are thinking of him as he considers the fundamental changes which he admits are necessary."

Prop claims that discounting prisoners on segregation, in the prison hospital or on special wings, the Parkhurst petition signified almost total support for demands. Its population is about 220. Mr Geoff Coggon, the movement's secretary, said: "The Home Office will respond that half remission is available in Ireland because there is no parole system there."

"But parole and remission are not comparable. The first is a highly selective and secretive process which passes by many of the prisoners in the dispersal prisons, whereas remission is automatic and subject only to good behaviour."

In June, 256 inmates at Lartins, a top security prison near Worcester, smuggled a petition to the prisoners' movement with similar demands. But the petition also protested about the quality of medical care and said it began refusing to go to workshops because of concern about the deaths of two prisoners, one by suicide and the other of a heart attack.

The protest began with a letter smuggled to *The Times* in May by a prisoner in Wormwood Scrubs, who said: "I should like to know why 'conforming' prisoners in England are entitled to one-third remission even though they are better behaved and in most cases have been convicted of less serious offences."

### Prisons: Sanitation

## 'Degrading' buckets still used in modernized cells

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Department is perpetuating a big cause of grievance in prisons, the practice of "slopping out" in the 50m redevelopment of 250 cells at Wormwood Scrubs, London.

Slopping out is the euphemism for prisoners emptying the contents of pots used in cells when access to lavatories is not available. The practice is condemned as degrading throughout the prison service.

The Home Affairs Committee of the Commons recommended the provision of integral sanitation in the redevelopment of existing local prisons.

But in a letter to Mr Clive Soley, Labour MP for Hamersmith North and a former probation officer, Lord Belstead, Under Secretary of State, says that the start of work on the cells in A block would have to be delayed for two years because of operational difficulties were integral sanitation to be provided.

Mr J. J. Jones, chairman of the board of visitors at Wormwood Scrubs, told *The Times* last night: "To modernize a wing and just continue the slopping out is appalling. Mr Gordon Fowler, the deputy director general of the prison service, is clearly equally appalled and tried to do battle with the prison board. The board met him over the issue."

Lord Belstead says in his letter that there is no delay to the start of work on a prison at Woolwich, he hopes it will be possible to build integral sanitation into the modernization and redevelopment of three other halls at Wormwood Scrubs.

At the end of the 10-year programme, A hall would be brought up to the standards then achieved in the rest of the prison.

Mr Soley said he intended to raise the issue in an adjournment debate on Friday.

## WRIT HALTS NEW BLUNT CASE STORY

By a Staff Reporter

A High Court judge issued an injunction on Saturday to prevent *The Sunday Times* publishing further allegations on the spy circle surrounding Professor Anthony Blunt, the former art adviser to the Queen who was revealed as having been a Soviet agent within MI5 during the Second World War.

The injunction was issued by Mr Justice Jupp at his home in Hertfordshire hours before *The Sunday Times* was due to go to print. It runs until Thursday when the matter is expected to be heard in chambers.

According to *The Sunday Times* yesterday the allegations concern men identified by British intelligence agents as communist activists who lived in the United States. They are said to have had ties with the United Nations and the White House. The injunction was given after a man arrived in London at the weekend and discussed the allegations with lawyers.

## Elm Fund appeal rejected

By Hugh Clayton

The Government has rejected an appeal for funds to prevent disease from destroying Britain's surviving elms. The Tree Council said last month that a national campaign was needed to prevent Dutch Elm disease from spreading as much in the North as has the South.

Most of the 10 million elms that survived from the pre-1970 population of 25 million are in northern England and Scotland. The council, a charity financed by 25 rural organizations, called for funds to finance the controlled felling and removal of diseased trees.

The Department of the Environment, a committee member of the council has decided not to support the scheme because the Countryside Commission, a grant-aided agency, feels that a worthwhile operation would cost too much. "There just is not enough money around to enable us to do the job properly," the commission said.

## 'New Scientist' celebrates 25 years of scoops

By Tony Samways

The *New Scientist* is 25 years old on Thursday. Its anniversary issue will celebrate "a quarter of a century of science and technology" with articles by Sir Fred Hoyle, Max Perutz and Sir Bernard Lovell. There will be a sale of original artwork from past covers at a London gallery, and a reception at the Royal Institution.

With a circulation approaching 85,000, not far off last year's peak, the magazine is obviously something of a success story. But the affection it inspires in its readers goes far beyond the circulation figures.

Its brief has always been a curious mixture of popularization and what its present editor, Mr Michael Rowland,

describes as technical respectability. In recent years the balance has shifted towards the latter.

At its best, *New Scientist* has generated substantial news stories. Exclusives of which the staff are most proud include a feature on boardroom electronic warfare in 1975 when several of them were in the office in London.

Common with a radio transmitter so powerful that a staff member standing on Westminster Bridge could listen to his conversations, and an extensive investigation of Uri Geller's claims to psychic powers, he concluded he was simply a good magician. This year the magazine has disclosed a crucial design fault in British Rail's advanced passenger train.

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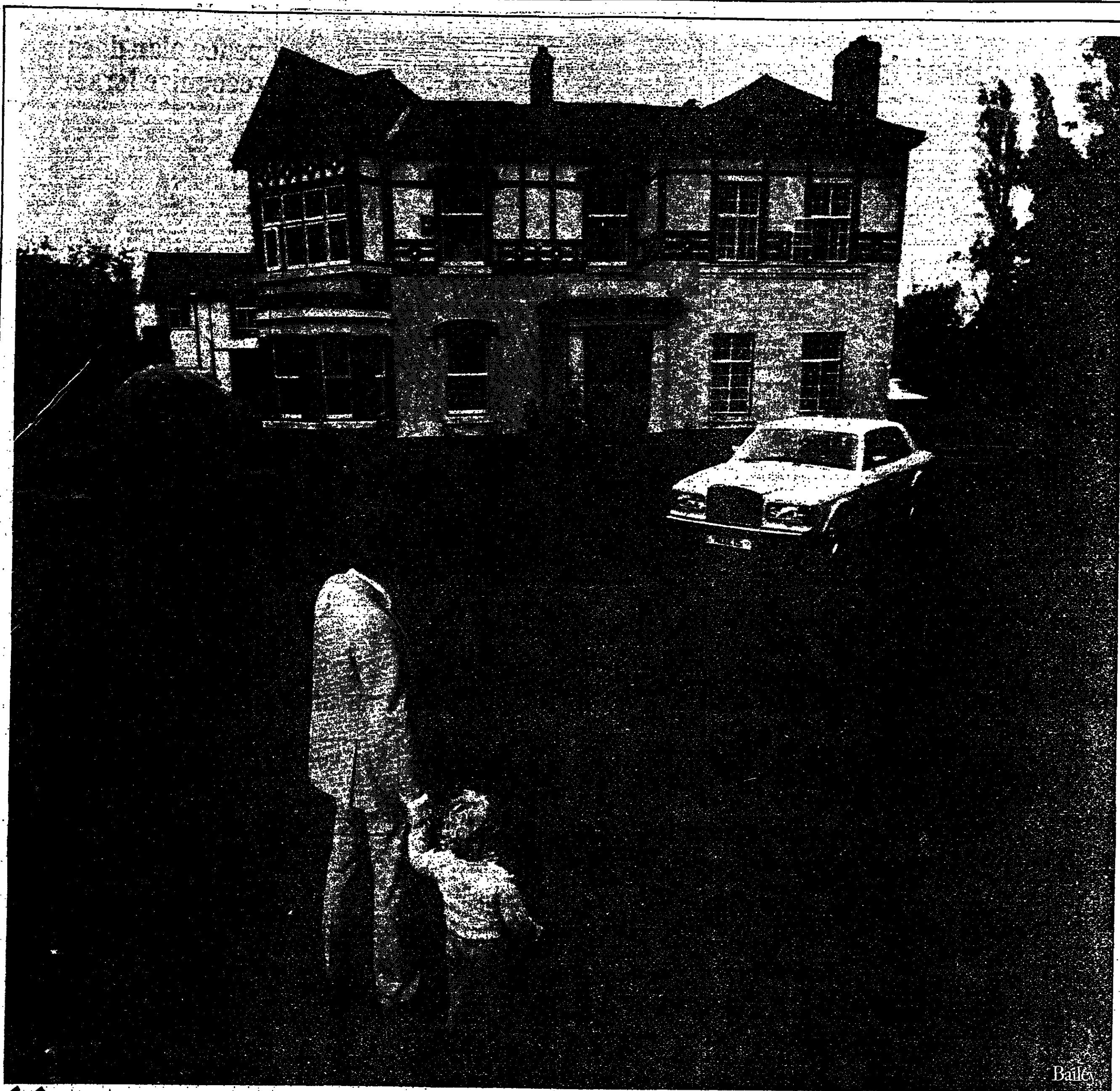
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1949	First product manufactured - an air traffic control desk. First of thirty overseas companies formed, in East Africa and Palestine.
1950	Caribbean-wide turnkey telecommunications project.
1954	Nationwide ATC and aeronautical telecommunications system supplied to Sudan.
1955	Oil industry communications system for Venezuela. First meteorological services contract in the Sudan.
1958	First civil government Air Traffic Control School established in London. First public telephone company formed in the Gulf.
1962	Consultancy contract for setting up new airport. Second Gulf telephone company inaugurated in U.A.E.
1965	First IAL North Sea oil operation. Supplying communications and maintenance services for Total Oil.
1969	IAL wins contract for UK SKYNET satellite communications system.
1971	New Dubai International Airport opens. IAL provides complete airport management and technical services.
1974	First computer based communications system for a public transit company, installed in Michigan, U.S.A.
1975	First comprehensive airport security system in Britain, at London Heathrow.
1978	Acquisition of CFM, Britain's largest independent computer maintenance company. IAL Stratus microprocessor based communications system launched.
1979	New Scotland Yard order IAL Stratus. British Rail buy IAL Medius data network management system. Location office opens. Link formed with Cap Gemini Sogefi, international software group.
1980	£1m data communications network order from Halifax Building Society. Major Malaysia aviation services project.



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**Albany Life** 



## Reagan aide faces more inquiries about interview

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 15

The American Justice Department is continuing inquiries into the payment by a Japanese magazine of \$1,000 (\$525) to Mr. Richard Allen, the National Security Adviser, for helping to arrange an interview with Mrs. Nancy Reagan.

The announcement from the White House contradicted its initial statement last Friday that the Justice Department had concluded that Mr. Allen had done nothing wrong and that the case was closed.

The contradiction reflects the chaos reigning in the White House where staff have been hastily trying to repair the damage done to the Administration by the revelation of Mr. Allen's financial transaction with the Japanese, and the explosive comments about the programme by Mr. David Stockman, the Budget Director, published in the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine.

Mr. Allen also issued a statement this weekend which was intended to clarify his role in the affair. He admitted that he had received the initial request for the interview with *Shufunzomo* (Housewife's Companion) magazine and had passed it to others for evaluation and decision. The interview took place on January 21, one day after President Reagan's inauguration.

## 100,000 join peace protest in Madrid

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Nov 15

Banners, bands, puppets and politicians made clear the message of Spain's left at a huge peace rally here today: "Nato No."

More than 100,000 protesters, gathered on this crisp, sunny Sunday on the University of Madrid's campus in response to a call from the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the Spanish Communist Party and about 200 other left-wing organizations, to demonstrate for peace, disarmament and freedom.

Senior Felipe Gonzalez, Secretary-General of the Socialist Party, was the main speaker. Effigies of Uncle Sam, General Franco, and a bishop were burned to the music of a marching jazz band accompanied by a skiffled figure in black representing death.

A group of young men carried a clear plastic coffin full of ash-faced girls, presumably representing victims of nuclear destruction. A tall mannequin with a red, white and blue top hat and a Dracula-like cape

danced to a drumbeat and occasionally lunged menacingly at children.

An anarchist group from time to time resanctified a pantomime of the seizure of the Spanish Parliament in February by rebel civil guard troops. Despite the grisly overtones, there was a festive atmosphere.

Young people made up most of the crowd, many of them with small children. Banners and placards bore hundreds of slogans, a great many denouncing the Government's decision to join Nato.

Protesters displayed the banned Spanish Republican flag and the flag of the Basque country, Catalonia, Andalusia, Extremadura and other regions.

In what was officially described as a security measure to prevent violent anti-Nato groups disrupting the rally, police barred the entire campus to vehicles, forcing people to walk a quarter of a mile or more to reach the demonstration.

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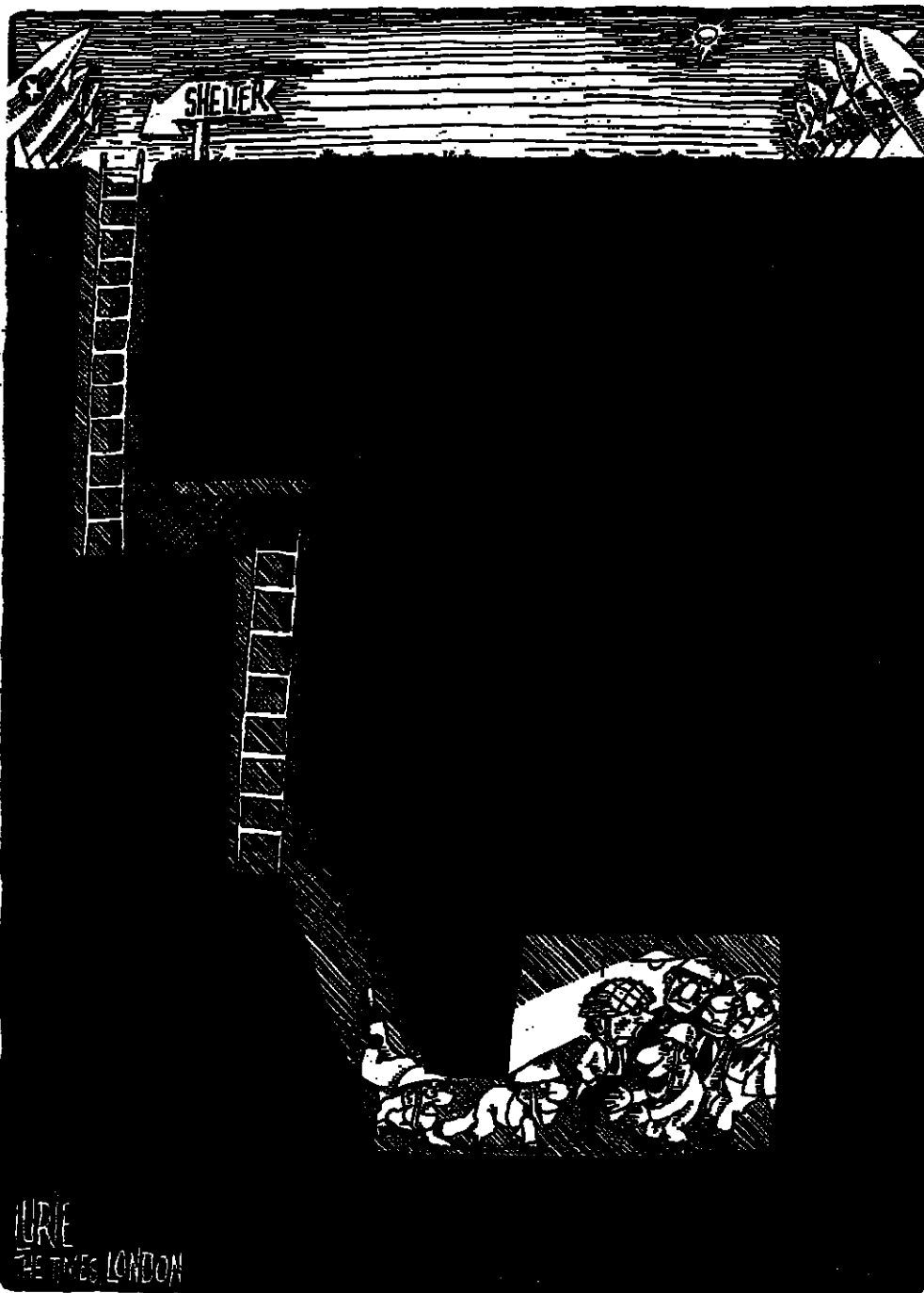
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'Welcome to the European Foreign Ministers summit!'

## Breach of contract says Libya

Beirut, Nov 15.—Libya yesterday accused the American oil company Exxon of breaking its contract and Libyan law by renegeing its concessions in Libya, but its national oil company said the dispute might be resolved through negotiations.

The Libyan Oil Secretariat, in a statement issued by the official Libyan news agency Jans, confirmed today that it had received notice of withdrawal from Esso Standard Libya and Esso Sirte. The two companies, both of which are 51 per cent nationalized by Libya, are Exxon affiliates.

The secretariat said it had told the companies that their behaviour did not conform to Libyan oil law and "was tantamount to failure to carry out their legal commitments and a unilateral breach of contract".

In a separate statement reported by Jans, the Libyan National Oil Corporation said differences between the two sides through negotiations is "despite the divergence of views between the national oil corporation and the two companies on the legal standing of their behaviour, resolving the difference between the two sides through negotiations is not discounted," its statement said.

The corporation said that it would take whatever measures it deemed appropriate to serve its rights. The Oil Secretariat also said in its statement: "The secretariat has reserved and continues to reserve all its rights under the law".

Exxon has given no reason for its move, and the Libyan statements shed no further light on it.—Reuters.

## Last Libyans leave OAU force arrives in Chad capital

By Our Foreign Staff

The first units of a pan-African peacekeeping force for Chad arrived yesterday in Ndjamena, the capital, as the last Libyan troops were leaving.

A Chadian military source in Ndjamena said that the town of Guerdere near the eastern border with Sudan had fallen on Saturday to rebel forces under Hissene Habré, the rebel former defence minister.

Zairean paratroopers formed the vanguard of the new multinational peacekeeping force, which has been set up by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). They flew in from Kinshasa, the Zairean capital, and will be housed in the airport terminal while temporary quarters are found.

Zaire is one of six countries contributing troops to the force, which is expected to number about 5,000. The others are Nigeria, which will provide the largest contingent and the overall commander, Guinea, Benin, Togo and Senegal. Gabon and France are giving logistical support.

The Libyan Government announced from Tripoli that the last of their soldiers in Ndjamena had been withdrawn yesterday and that the last Libyan contingent in Chad was expected to leave the eastern town of Abéché today. Ndjamena airport was lit by a huge fire on Saturday night as the Libyans burned equipment they could not take with them.

## Saudi envoy says peace plan does recognize Israel

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Nov 15

Saudi Arabia's eight-point peace plan does recognize Israel's right to exist, according to Mr. Gaafar Allagany, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador at the United Nations.

In an interview which was reported in *The New York Times* Mr. Allagany said about the controversial Saudi plan: "It does recognize Israel. It says 'all states'. We are not afraid to say that it does recognize Israel. We are not shying away from that word 'Israel' in any sense."

Mr. Allagany's remarks are particularly significant as they go well beyond the interpretation of the Saudi plan put forward last August by Crown Prince Fahd.

There was uncertainty, caused by the translation of the Saudi plan from Arabic into English, over the exact meaning of the seventh point in the plan. It was unclear whether the Saudis were talking about the right of 'peoples' or the right of 'states' in the region to live in peace, and whether they meant 'all' or 'all of them, including Israel'.

But Mr. Moshe Arens, the leader of an Israeli all-party parliamentary delegation visiting America, reiterated to reporters on Friday that there was a very wide public accord in Israel that the Camp David peace process might be derailed if the United States and Saudi Arabia move closer together and America encouraged the Saudi peace plan.

Mr. Chaim Herzog, a former Ambassador to the United Nations and a member of the delegation, said if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accepted the Saudi plan "this will be seen as indirect, implied recognition of Israel, and then the bars to any United States dialogue with the PLO will be removed. We see the Saudi plan as the beginnings of the dismemberment of Israel," Mr. Herzog said.

President Reagan and Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, have both stated recently that the Saudi plan implied recognition of Israel. However, he has strongly rejected the Saudi peace formula, calling it a plan to liquidate Israel in stages.

Now, however, a senior Saudi official with 15 years' experience at the United Nations has confirmed that recognition of Israel is part of the Saudi plan, which also calls for an Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Mr. Allagany also said that the eight-point plan constituted a bargaining position and not a fixed stance. The plan is to be discussed at an Arab summit meeting in Fez, Morocco, on November 23.

President Reagan's remarks will almost certainly feature in talks which President Gaafar Nimeiry of Sudan will hold with Mr. Haig and other senior officials when he visits Washington this week. President Nimeiry's views are of particular interest to the United States as the Sudanese leader is a close ally of Egypt which is currently engaged with Israel in carrying out the decisions of the Camp David agreement.

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## Karpov fails to exploit his minimal advantage

By Harry Golombek

The world chess championship match in Merano seems to have settled down to an alternating pattern of games of extreme violence succeeded by quiet and comfortable draws.

The sixteenth game started on Saturday was of the latter variety.

It followed game 14 for the first 14 moves, and Viktor Korchnoi, the challenger, wisely substituted a knight move for a knight exchange, the point being that with his knight exchange in game 14 had encouraged the white queen to adopt a most dangerous attacking position.

There ensued some jockeying about for position in which both sides sought to obtain attacking chances. Anatoly Karpov, the world champion, on the kingside and his challenger in the centre, Karpov was partially successful in his aims in that he was left with a position in which his bishop was superior to black's knight. But, in compensation, Korchnoi was able to gain a position where he had a supported and passed queen's pawn.

The game was adjourned on the forty-first move. It seems that experts on the spot thought Karpov had the advantage but, in fact, his advantage was minimal.

Play was resumed yesterday and Karpov must have agreed with this assessment, for he made only one more move and then offered a draw which Korchnoi accepted.

Sixteenth game  
White: Karpov, Black: Korchnoi.  
Roy Lopez opening.  
1 P-K4 P-K4  
2 P-K3 P-K3  
3 B-K5 P-K3  
4 B-K4 P-K3  
5 P-Q4 P-K4  
6 P-Q4 P-K4  
7 P-Q4 P-K4  
8 P-Q4 P-K4  
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96 P-Q4 P-K4  
97 P-Q4 P-K4  
98 P-Q4 P-K4  
99 P-Q4 P-K4  
100 P-Q4 P-K4

Position when draw agreed  
Black: Korchnoi

White: Karpov

White: Karpov

White: Karpov

White: Karpov

White: Karpov

White: Karpov

White: Karpov

White: Karpov

## Shuttle has problems to overcome

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

The second flight of the shuttle is certainly a milestone in manned space exploration, but there is still much for the American space agency to achieve if this type of vehicle is to attain its goals.

It is now very important to meet the provisional date of March-April for the third launch, because the shuttle becomes a cheap item of transport only if each orbiter can be used up to 100 times and at short intervals.

The original programme called for six test launches starting in May 1979. By the end of November, 1981, 20 operational flights for paying customers should have been completed. But the number of test flights has been cut to four, and the first operational flight will not take place until 1983.

Moreover, there is a big technical penalty in using a shuttle flying in low orbit. It is ill suited for the launch of those spacecraft which stay in one place in relation to the Earth below and are used for communications, meteorology and navigation. Such geosynchronous craft will form about three quarters of those needed for commercial and industrial application in the near future.

To be placed in a sufficiently high orbit, these satellites would need engines of their own to lift them from the shuttle. Neither appropriate engines nor launching techniques have been developed beyond an early stage.

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Watch this space: The Columbia space shuttle sends up a cloud of dust as it touches down on the desert floor at Edwards Air Force Base, in California, closely observed by a chase aircraft.

## Pentagon likely to become chief paymaster of Columbia

From Nicholas Hirst

Houston, Nov 15

Magnificently but sadly, Columbia touched down in the California dust of Edwards Air Force Base on Saturday with officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration desperately concerned that the mission be seen as a success.

Nasa badly needed the flight to go well. It is threatened with budget cuts which could lead to the cancellation of some of its unmanned programmes; the space shuttle programme is late—at \$9,500m costing 30 per cent more than planned—and Nasa is in a tight spot at the possibility of increased control of the shuttle project by the Department of Defence.

No one could hide the disappointment of the astronauts, Colonel Joe Engle and Captain

Richard Truly, at being brought back from an intended five-day flight after only two and a half days. But mission control was adamant that the main purpose of flight, to show that the Columbia was a reusable vehicle, had been "accomplished very successfully".

But the project was already well behind schedule before the first launch in April. The second launch, originally planned for September, suffered successive delays from mishaps and technical problems, and after a big publicity build-up the lift-off fixed for November 4 had to be cancelled at the last minute.

President Reagan told the astronauts during the flight: "I'm sure you know how proud everyone down here is and how this whole nation—I'm sure the world, but certainly America—has got its eyes and heart on you."

But the eyes of the world were on a flight that was not going as planned. The third flight of the shuttle has had to be put back from January to March or April and Nasa has already accepted that the planned two-week turnaround between landing and launch when the Columbia and its three sister ships become operational, will have to be more than twice as long.

People are asking if the project ever will provide a cheap, easy method of putting scientific experiments and spy, communications and even weapons-bearing satellites into space.

The number of shuttle flights between now and 1985 has been cut from an original 68 to 32. And if there is no stopping the requested budget cuts for fiscal

1982 of \$367m and a further \$1,000m in 1983 and 1984 the number might have to be reduced to 24.

At least 71 launches of expendable rockets to put satellites into space—the type the shuttle was intended to replace—are planned in the next four years. This is more than twice the number that the orbiters will make.

The military payloads for the shuttle have not been cut back as heavily as launches for scientific and commercial satellites. The Air Force is spending \$2,000m on its spaceport at Vandenberg in California, and if further cutbacks are planned, the Department of Defence is likely to operate more shuttle flights than Nasa.

President Reagan's pleasure on his brief visit to mission control was obvious. But in view of his Administration's concern with defence, Nasa must expect that any more money made available for the shuttle will go to military rather than scientific development.

Mr. Michael Weeks, acting associate administrator for the shuttle programme, said that despite the curtailment of the mission, forced by a fault in one of the three fuel cells providing electricity for Columbia, more than 90 per cent of the important tests for the orbiter and the scientific experiments had been completed.

Nevertheless the curtailment has meant that some have been missed. The Canadian-built robot arm, intended to deploy and retrieve satellites from space, performed well, but had only a third of its intended testing time.

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## Rome-Bonn plan highlights EEC divisions

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 15

The European Commission has spent the weekend locked in private session at Villers le Temple, south of Brussels, reviewing progress in the plan to reshape the European Community. It cannot have been a meeting where there was much cause for satisfaction.

After more than two months of intensive work, with Britain, the most interested partner, fortuitously in the driving seat as President of the Council, not one decision has been taken and wide differences separate the Community on essential points.

This may be no more than traditional European brinkmanship, but there are many pointers that several nations are unaware that any brink exists, while others are refusing to see it.

When Lord Carrington opened the foreign ministers' meeting in the morning, his main task will be to try to instil a sense of urgency into the discussions if there is to be any hope of progress towards restructuring the Community at the European summit in London at the end of the month.

Next year, Belgium, with all its domestic problems, takes over the Presidency of the Council and is followed by Denmark, which of all the Community countries is least inclined to want any change. Failure to make progress now, could mean that the Commission's mandate to bring about change, launched with such high hopes in the summer, will lose way, and come to a standstill.

This danger has prompted Italy and West Germany in an unlikely combination to produce a "European Act" aimed at giving new momentum to the old idea of European union. The document, to be given to the foreign ministers at their meeting, is a carrot being offered to the stubborn mule of the council, which is refusing change.

It conjures the idea of a Europe able "through a common foreign policy, to assume joint positions and take joint action in world affairs so that Europe will be increasingly able to assume the international role devolving upon it by virtue of its economic and political importance."

The Act accordingly suggests wider powers of political cooperation for the European Council, and a much larger role in this area for the European Parliament. The Commission itself is also to be involved in this area.

In dealing with Community problems the European Court would be given powers as an arbitrator but the document shies away from the idea that council decisions should be taken by a majority vote.

It also admits that the primary goal of the Act is strengthening the community, and that "the solution of the problems currently being dealt with is essential of the solidarity of the Community is to be strengthened". Given this essential factor, the Act can not be expected to achieve much headway while the battle over the mandate for change is fought. If the

## Protesters blockade Frankfurt airport

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Nov 15

Hundreds of demonstrators today blockaded Frankfurt airport with burning barricades and sit-ins on the approach roads in an attempt to stop the building of the controversial third runway.

Traffic on the busy autobahn networks around the huge airport was thrown into chaos as protesters dragged tree trunks and branches across the tarmac and set them alight. They blocked other roads with cars or their own bodies and police tried to intervene were pelted with sticks.

Police used water cannon to disperse the demonstrators at one entrance. More cannon were used to scatter another 1,000 who threw petrol bombs, sticks and stones at police on the building site of the runway.

The demonstrators were trying to fulfil a threat to paralyse the airport after the Hesse Land Government ignored their demand to halt work on the runway pending a court decision on the validity of their petition for a referendum.

The authorities maintain that the petition, which has collected 174,000 signatures — more than enough for a referendum — does not meet the requirements laid down in the Land constitution.

□ Patient dies: A 74-year-old woman who had suffered a heart attack died after the ambulance taking her to hospital was caught in a traffic jam at Frankfurt.



Fowl play: President Reagan sets out on a wild turkey hunt on a Texas ranch during a weekend respite from his growing problems. Mr James Baker, his chief of staff, drives the camouflaged party which includes another aide and a secret serviceman wearing the inevitable dark glasses. The White House said that on the only occasion Mr Reagan had a turkey in his sights he had refused to shoot.

## Hopes of progress on Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 15

The United States hopes to receive a formal response before the end of this month from African countries and parties involved in the negotiations over Namibian independence to the proposed constitutional principles drawn up by the five-nation Western contact group.

The principles, which call for a one-man one-vote election, a multi-party system, separation of powers and a bill of rights, were discussed during a recent visit to Africa by a delegation led by Dr Chester Crocker, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, told the House foreign affairs committee last week: "At long last we see the prospect of real progress. The contact group's immediate objective is to ensure that a start is made on United Nations Resolution 435."

## Reagan rejoinder no help

## Nato let down by US nuclear dithering

From Frederick Bonhart, Brussels, Nov 15

Bitter disappointment has been expressed at NATO over the lack of coherence in the American administration's different statements on defence strategy.

Contradictory declarations by the Secretaries of State and Defence respectively about Nato plans for a demonstrative use of a nuclear weapon were not set at risk by President Reagan's vague rejoinder.

"We had hoped to have seen the end of the inconsistencies of the Carter Administration," one senior diplomat remarked, "but they are now resurfacing, sowing doubt and confusion. We regret that the internal difficulties of the Administration should surface in this way at a time when NATO is trying to counter the growing protest movement with a consistent and coherent information policy."

Dr Joseph Luns, the Nato Secretary General, pointed out recently that the governments of the member countries are devoted to the cause of peace. Yet they are being opposed by demonstrations in the name of peace. It is therefore now considered essential here to present the true facts clearly.

European diplomats are worried by the present irrational fear of war in West Germany, which they call an unjustified neurosis. They say that the unilateralists and other protesters miss the point of the essentially defensive nature of the alliance.

All the power at its disposal is intended to protect it from aggression: this is the meaning of deterrence. The idea of a demonstrative use of a nuclear weapon to show Nato's resolve in case of an attack by the Warsaw Pact powers is therefore certainly not excluded. The problem is not one of plans, it is one of communication.

Nothing has changed in the Nato doctrine of flexible response, the whole purpose of which is to sow doubt in the mind of the potential aggressor about the type of response which the alliance would give in a crisis. Diplomats cannot simply affirm that a nuclear warning shot is part of the plan; nevertheless it is clear that such a possibility must not only have been planned for, but must also be considered by the Soviet Union to a possible Nato option.

It is impossible, however, for Nato to give definite answers on the subject without giving away the whole of its strategic game: it would remove the element of uncertainty from the opponent's mind and enable him to calculate the risks of an attack in Europe — the very thing which the strategy of flexible response is designed to prevent.

Finally, diplomats here are very much aware of the need to give a clear message when Nato defence and foreign ministers meet in Brussels in early December.

# BRANIFF ANNOUNCE NEW LOW FARES TO TEXAS AND THE AMERICAN SOUTH WEST.

## French left-wing alliance shows first cracks

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 16

The budget discussion and especially the watering down of the wealth tax and the decision to raise contributions to meet the huge social security deficit have caused the first cracks in the facade of solidarity between French Communists and Socialists achieved last June in the flush of victory at the polls.

"Small taxes for big fortunes" was the significant comment of the Communist organ *L'Humanité* after the vote on new taxes, which led Communist deputies to protest against the increases in tobacco, spirits, petrol and other consumer items. "The wage earners cough up and inflation takes a knock," it proclaimed again last week.

These cracks coincide with virulent attacks by M Andre Bergeron, the Secretary-General of the moderate trade union organization Force Ouvriere on the infiltration by the Communists of those sectors of the administration for which their four ministers are responsible: transport, health, the civil service department and professional training. His organization in a few weeks time will produce a document giving details of this Communist infiltration.

His broadside coincided with the appointment as General Director of Health in the Health Ministry of a prominent member of the Communist central committee, Dr Jacques Rouss. It followed, a few weeks, the appointment of another Communist as head of Paris transport.

Meanwhile, the Communist ministers continue to believe as model pupils of the government class and to be irreproachable — in public at least — on the point of joint Government responsibility. They keep on proclaiming that they are in the Government to stay.

But the Socialist Party is aware that its allies "are playing a double game. This consists of sharing the credit for far-reaching and on the whole popular moves like nationalization and decentralization, workers' rights and increases in low wages and social benefits; and keeping their distance from unpopular ones, like tax or social security measures.

For the time being, the Socialists choose to play down these differences, on the grounds that they do not impinge on Government solidarity. M Louis Mermaz, the President of the National Assembly, stated categorically that Communist criticism of government decisions did not imply a "breakdown of the Union of the Left."

It is too soon therefore, as some Opposition newspapers are inclined to do already, to talk of a rift in the left. The Communist Party knows it and cannot afford to indulge in anything more than pin-pricks so long as the President and Prime Minister continue to enjoy exceptionally high popularity ratings, if somewhat reduced in the latest polls, even among the Communists' own supporters.

## Africa has a new state

Abidjan, Nov 15. — President Sir Dawda Jawara of Gambia formally placed his tiny country under Senegal's umbrella last night, less than four months after Senegalese troops helped him to foil a coup attempt.

An official announcement by State House in Banjul said Senegal and Gambia had decided to form a confeder-

ation. The newly-formed state of Senegambia will be headed by Senegal's President, according to observers, will be the senior partner.

The population of Gambia is 570,000, one tenth that of Senegal. Gambia has a 750-man police force and a 350-strong field force. Senegal has 5,500 troops, Reuter.

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## Nuclear weapons in Europe: the realities behind the talking

In two weeks US and Soviet officials begin their first full post-war talks on the future of nuclear weapons in Europe. Against a background of intensifying anti-nuclear protest, particularly in West Germany, the United States is putting the finishing touches to a dramatic offer to withdraw plans to deploy new Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe — if the Soviets will make the equivalent response. John Barry reveals the details of the so-called "zero option" and examines its implications.

## Zero gambit: the risk for the West

When Paul Nitze sits down opposite the Soviet team in Geneva at the end of this month to begin the long-awaited talks to limit nuclear weapons in Europe, he will have in his folder the most sweeping possible Western proposal. As head of the American delegation, Nitze will have the authority, when he judges the moment right, to propose the "zero option". If the Russians will dismantle all relevant missiles on their side, NATO will offer to abandon its own plans to deploy Pershing Two and Tomahawk cruise missiles. "Soviet propaganda has played on the peace movement throughout this affair," one of those privy to the plan explained. "Now the United States is going to say: 'OK, deliver'."

Details of the Western proposal have still to get final clearance within the Alliance. But the shape of the package is firm and is given below. Those responsible for the proposal, a small band who have weathered two years of uproar in Europe over NATO's 1979 decision to deploy Pershing and cruise missiles — exude a pardonable smugness, akin to that of a father who sees some particularly ill-favoured off-spring finally make it to the altar. The plan is, after all, bold. It is everything the peace groups have been calling for. It will surely capture the imagination of the young. It puts the ball firmly into the Soviet court.

A more sober assessment would caution that, while the "zero option" is probably politically unavoidable, the West's real problems may be only beginning. As one British analyst put it: "What would we do if Brezhnev said yes?"

The draft negotiating brief was agreed at a discreet meeting of the "Special Consultative Group" (SCG) in NATO headquarters in Brussels at the end of last month. The group, set up in 1978 to oversee the arms control aspects of NATO's nuclear plans, is chaired by the United States Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, Lawrence Eagleburger. His presence in Europe for the meeting was disguised with talk of his attending a "private seminar" and the razzamatazz surrounding the meeting of NATO defence ministers at Gleneagles in Scotland served also to distract attention from the more critical gathering in Brussels.

Even after Brussels, however, differences remain on details of the package. To

resolve these, the SCG is to meet again only a few days before the negotiations open. Meanwhile, in Washington, the United States Administration has itself finally to approve the package. This will be done at a meeting within the National Security Council over the next week or so. "Slightly to our own surprise," one of the American team said, "we seem to be on track."

But where does the track lead? It is arguable that in putting forward the "zero option" NATO is storing up for itself two sets of problems, one political and the other doctrinal.

The political problem lies in the exaggerated European hopes for the negotiations, especially their timetable. More than a year ago, West German officials were saying privately in Washington that their government needed results from the talks within a year of their starting — and the pressures on Chancellor Schmidt have increased since then.

An indication of those pressures came at that Gleneagles meeting of ministers in NATO's Nuclear Planning Group. The negotiating package was not on the group's agenda: indeed pre-arranged to be the case. Nothing to do with the group. But the Germans and Belgians insisted on raising the "zero option" and a rambling discussion ensued. Several other delegates were irked by this, assuming that the Germans were merely preparing the ground for some public self-congratulation when the package is unwrapped.

The play is understandable, though, because expectations of results inside a year look wholly unrealistic. Even with goodwill on both sides, the issues are so complex that talks could take years.

In fact, there is no reason to suppose goodwill. Beneath the rhetoric, there is little evidence that the Russians have ever taken seriously the idea of theatre nuclear limitations. They now appear content with the new missiles they have. First indications are that the Soviet negotiating stance at Geneva will be that a nuclear balance exists in Europe and should be frozen at present levels with their SS-20 in place but without NATO's Pershing Two and Tomahawk.

Of course, Pershing and Tomahawk worry Moscow, and the Russians may eventually be prepared to pay a price to buy them off. But they will scarcely contemplate paying that until they are certain they cannot block the deploy-



Our map which is based upon unclassified information from the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Ministry of Defence and other sources, shows the approximate location of weapon systems which would or could be used to carry nuclear warheads if peace broke down in Europe.

They range from the obsolescent Vulcan bomber, shortly to be phased out of service with the RAF, to modern machines like the Soviet supersonic Backfire which came into

service in 1974 — to the consternation of the Western alliance.

Most of the aircraft might be described as "nuclear capable" systems which could carry nuclear free-fall bombs, but would also play a prominent part as conventional weapons.

Artillery similarly includes short-range shells fired by self-propelled guns and the SS-20, the mobile, land-based Soviet missile whose three independent warheads could threaten Western Europe from firing positions either West or East of the Urals.

Some of the equipment cannot be easily

placed in the complicated hierarchy of nuclear weapons. Submarine missiles on both sides are more properly identified as strategic systems and the Poseidons, while operating out of the European theatre are officially counted in the Soviet-American strategic arms limitation treaties (Salt). The Americans also tried unsuccessfully to have Backfire counted as a strategic weapon because it could reach the United States if refuelled in mid-flight.

The French systems are particularly difficult to place because France has

withdrawn her military commitment to NATO, although successive presidents have said that France would fight alongside the Western allies if war broke out. The plan is to use the shorter-range weapons like the field artillery and smaller missiles are sometimes described as tactical or battlefield weapons, the others as theatre systems — either medium-range or long-range. It is the long-range systems on which attention will be focused during the Geneva talks.

Henry Stanhope

## What 'zero' means

## The straight trade: Pershings for SS missiles

"Zero" on NATO's side means no Pershing Two, no long-range cruise missiles and, almost certainly, no Poseidon submarine-launched missile deployed in West Germany. "Zero" for the Russians means, in their long-range arsenal, none of the old SS-4s and SS-5s and none of the new SS-20s. It also means none of their medium-range weapons now targeted on Europe: the old SS-12 and its new replacement the SS-22. The West will also press the Russians for severe restrictions on the newest of all their missiles, the short-range (2000-mile) SS-23.

There are shadings of view inside NATO on the scope of the list. The position given above is the American line. The British would tend to concentrate upon a straight trade between the long-range systems — SS-4, 5 and 20 against Pershing Two and Tomahawk — leaving the shorter-range systems until later.

This was NATO's consensus at the time of the December 1979 decision to deploy the new systems. But the Reagan Administration points out two uncertainties.

One is that the Russians, it now seems almost certain, will reject a straight "zero" trade of long-range systems. So the West must be prepared to seize the initiative in broadening the talks from the start. The nastier possibility is that the Russians might accept some limitations on SS-20s (though not their extinction) as the price of getting rid of NATO's Pershing Two and Tomahawk, but then go a long way to filling the gap with new SS-22s and 23s while contriving not to reach agreement on those systems. NATO has no equivalent to the SS-22 or 23 any more than it can match the SS-20. In that pass, Washington foresees — and is determined to avoid — a dreary repetition of the last four wrenching years as NATO once again struggles to find a response.

At Geneva, the compromise Western position will probably be that Nitze will propose the more expansive package, but will insist that the elements in it, while linked, starting with the systems which both sides profess to find most alarming: the long-range missiles.

Whatever ceilings upon missile numbers are finally agreed must be equal for each side and global in application. Early work by American analysts had suggested it might be necessary for the

West to offer global ceilings with regional sub-ceilings. NATO deployments in Europe would be held under a "European sub-ceiling" which would also apply to Soviet missiles aimed at Europe. But under a marginally higher "global ceiling", the Russians would have freedom to deploy a few SS-20s against China. (And the margin between the two ceilings was also seen as a way of "compensating" the Soviet Union for the British and French independent systems, which are not included in the talks.)

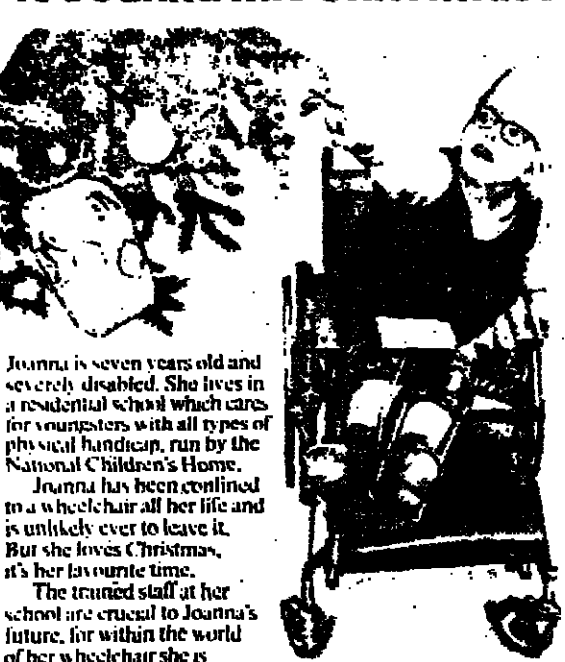
This approach has now been abandoned on the grounds that the Russians do not need a mobile, highly accurate system such as the SS-20 against China or to concentrate upon a straight trade between the long-range systems — SS-4, 5 and 20 against Pershing Two and Tomahawk — leaving the shorter-range systems until later.

The unit of counting for missiles will be variable, since the whole point of new MIRVed warheads is that they can strike several targets simultaneously. Thus the SS-20, with three warheads, will count as three systems. There are hints, however, that in the fine print the West may propose more lenient counting rules to cover the ageing and less-threatening SS-4s and SS-5s, with corresponding rules governing the ratio in which the Russians might, if they chose, replace them with SS-20s.

The Western position on aircraft still seems open to debate. Among those preparing the negotiating brief, the majority view has consistently been that limitations upon aircraft pose such ferocious technical problems that, if the talks are to have any hope of reasonably swift progress, aircraft should be considered only after relatively easier topics, such as long-range missiles, have been dealt with.

To give a flavour of these problems: how do you define "comparable" aircraft? By mission? By range? Either criterion poses acute analytical problems. Worse still, how do you cope with dual-capable aircraft — aircraft with important conventional roles in the opening phase of any conflict and then, in extremis, having nuclear missions as well? Get the answer to that wrong, and you could be limiting what are also your conventional defences, actu-

## Will you reach out to Joanna this Christmas?



Joanna is seven years old and severely disabled. She lives in a residential school which cares for youngsters with all types of physical handicap, run by the National Children's Home.

Joanna has been confined to a wheelchair all her life and is unlikely ever to leave it. But she loves Christmas, it's her favourite time.

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*Lynda Thomas*  
Speaker of the House of Commons

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## The view from Moscow

## Pessimism about results

The Soviet Union laid out its negotiating position on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe more than two years ago, when President Brezhnev declared in East Berlin in October 1979 that the Russians would be ready to withdraw some of their missiles from western parts of Russia if NATO halted its plans to deploy Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe.

Since that speech the political climate, East-West relations and the relative military strengths of both sides have changed, but the Soviet negotiating position remains essentially the same.

The Russians have called for a start to talks with increasing urgency since the Reagan Administration took office. For Moscow time is now of the essence: the American decision to develop the neutron bomb, the refusal to ratify the Salt-2 agreement, talk in Washington of reestablishing American military superiority and the unhurried pace with which the Americans approached the Geneva talks are all seen here as a sign that the military situation will soon rapidly worsen for the Russians.

The Russians will certainly not allow any linkage between

a long time: the Vienna talks on troop cuts in Central Europe have, after all, been deadlocked for almost eight years because of an East-West dispute over the size of the Warsaw Pact forces.

But the Russians do appear to want some agreement to emerge, if only because they hope this may lead on to wider Salt-3 agreement that would incorporate much of the still unratified Salt-2. The stumbling block will probably be verification. Traditionally the Russians have been extremely suspect of on-site inspection by Western military observers, which they regard as tantamount to licensed spying.

The Russians know that the Geneva talks are their last opportunity of preventing the deployment of new missiles, and they have no illusion that the West will allow a freeze that would make it possible for the Soviet Union to spin out talks indefinitely. For the Russians the talks are a matter of good faith from the West. But the mood is pessimistic. It took seven years to negotiate Salt-2 to no apparent result. Moscow is still sceptical that Washington wants any result for the coming round of negotiations.

Michael Binyon

Chief Soviet negotiator  
Ul Kvitinskii

the European theatre and their increasingly important Eastern defences. The Russians start from their premise that in the European theatre there is now parity. They have not spelled this out in detail, though Mr Brezhnev said earlier this month that the Soviet Union had a total of 975 "Eurostrategic" missiles.

He also argued that installation of the new SS-20s did not increase the overall strength of Soviet weaponry, and argued that therefore any still sceptical that Washington wants any result for the coming round of negotiations.













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## MURDEROUS PROVOCATION

By the attempted murder of the Attorney General and his wife and by the murder of Mr Robert Bradford MP the Provisional IRA has turned to the killing of public representatives. It has not thought that politics up to now. It was not the Provisionals but another republican murder squad who killed Airey Neave in 1979; and it was the "official" IRA, before it grounded arms, that made the attempt in 1972 on the life of Mr John Taylor, then a minister in the Stormont government and now a member of the European parliament.

There are several objects the Provisionals' switch of tactics would serve. One is simply to make a splash. When you have sapped full with horrors and made political murder an everyday event you need a fairly spectacular coup to keep yourself in the headlines. Another object is to pass comment, in the language of blood, on the civil and constructive politics that passed between Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald the previous week. Another purpose served by the second crime is to abort any scheme for institution-building in Ulster that may have been conceived by Mr James Prior, by putting even further beyond reach the necessary minimum of trust between green and orange on which such a process depends. Another purpose is to provoke the Provisionals of Ulster to retaliation and set the two communities at each other's throats. From that generalization of violence the IRA would reckon to profit.

The last is the most dangerous possibility, and one of which Mr Prior showed himself well aware in his immediate call for calm. There is a present danger of retaliation

killing by Protestant gangs. Calls for restraint are necessary and proper, and it is good to note how widely they were echoed throughout the province yesterday, but it is doubtful if they are enough to avert that consequence of the IRA's deliberate provocation. In Fermanagh and other border areas ceaseless attacks on members of the security forces on or off duty have brought the Protestants there near to despairing of the ability or will of those in charge of the army and police to protect them. Now the murder of Mr Bradford is felt as a threat and challenge to the entire Protestant community because of his representative status.

They are under strong provocation to see to their own defence. By taking that course, in whatever combination of vigilance and vengeance, they would actually increase the danger to life in their own as well as the opposing community; and they would divert the attention and manpower of the security forces from the suppression of republican criminal violence to the suppression of their own. But that consideration may not be enough to check the urge to abandon passivity and take matters into their own hands. Mr Prior must do more than counsel them not to do that; he must convince them it is not necessary.

Clearly the protection given to public men must be stiffened. That is no less necessary in Britain than in Northern Ireland. First reports of the circumstances of the explosion at Wimbledon suggest that routine protection may be more than enough. In Ulster the security review must go much wider than that. New initiatives in

policing are required and the Ulster Defence Regiment should have a more active role. Border security should be given a higher priority and army strength increased there as necessary. Mr Prior hinted at intensified undercover operations when he spoke to unionists in Belfast on Friday, and he would be right to authorize them.

Yet Mr Prior is under an important constraint. Short of coercive measures of a political nature, the IRA will be exhausted only when it is rejected by the Irish subcultures on which it battens — and rejected means among other things informed strike out of the way and the quiescent; with a growing recognition in the Republic that the "national aspiration" of a British exit and the juridical unity of the island can only come as the culmination of a long period of political and cultural reconciliation, and that the length of the period is extended by every exploit of the IRA; with a greater readiness among the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland to use their undoubted influence to frustrate the designs of the IRA; and with Ulster's long war weariness... the conditions are beginning to look more favourable for that rejection of the IRA by its own.

With an eye to the present Mr Prior needs security measures firm enough to head off a Protestant stand to arms. With an eye beyond the present he has to be careful to avoid the sort of measures that work to bind nationalists to the IRA in sympathy or resentment.

## HOW TO COPE WITH CRANKS

Mr Tarquin Fintimbinbin-bimbimbin Bus Stop-F'ang-F'ang-Ole Biscuit Barrel standing for Parliament this week. Representing the Cambridge University Raving Looney Society, Mr Barrel hopes to get the fewest votes ever recorded by a candidate in a British election. That record is held by the persistent Lieutenant-Commander William Boaks, who contests virtually every election and by-election on behalf of his Land Sea and Air Democratic Monarchist Public Safety White Resident and Women's Party (or a permutation thereof). He attracted 14 votes at Warrington, and is hoping for better or worse things in Crosby.

So far, so eccentric, and it would be a shame indeed if our elections were to be limited to the stable, the sensible and the boring. The recent tendency has been, however, for more and more fringe candidates, purveying strange or extreme political doctrine or personal belief. The benign system is in danger of getting out of hand through abuse by the frivolous, and by those whose sole aim is to take advantage of the special privileges available to candidates, like free postage

for their election addresses. Often, the publicity they seek is for a private, not a public, grievance.

Under the present law, which has remained unchanged since 1918, anyone wishing to stand for Parliament needs only have his nomination paper signed by ten electors of the constituency in which he wishes to stand — something which even the most absurd of candidates can achieve — and put down a deposit of £150, which is forfeited if the candidate fails to obtain 12½ per cent of the total votes cast. That sum of £150, at today's values, would be in the region of £1500. The financial hurdle to standing for Parliament has, in practice, been removed in respect of individuals, though it may still be of sizeable concern to parties fielding hundreds of candidates.

The Government is in the process of reviewing electoral law generally and a Green Paper has been promised. One of the proposals being considered with some favour would raise the deposit required to be put down to something over £1,000, but greatly reduce the number of votes that would entail its forfeiture, say, to five per cent

of the total. This would relax the potential financial burden on minority parties with national ambitions. Until recently, the Liberals had most to fear from a system which would merely raise the deposit requirements while insisting that the candidate received one-eighth of the vote. With the advent of a third party, apparently of approximately equal public appeal, that factor is of less importance. For the eccentric, the movement, however, one twentieth of the vote would be quite a reach as one might think.

There is, however, another way of approaching the problem, which would have the effect of excluding the asses while allowing genuine minority candidates to stand without bearing the possible loss of a four-figure sum. The number of constituents required to sign a candidate's nomination form should be drastically increased, perhaps to 500 or 1,000. Serious minority candidates with at least an arguable platform might, by working hard, be able to reach such a quota. The totally irresponsible, with no coherent philosophy, would be hard put to get enough signatures.

choice except to stand by a loyal colleague. Mr Powell has been occupied a 'Front Bench seat since.

Before he made his Commons wind-up speech last week threatening that a Labour government would rationalise 'privatise' oil and gas without compensation, Mr Benn was also given a chance in Shadow Cabinet to amend the line prepared by Mr Markyn Rees, the responsible Shadow Cabinet minister, and feeling let down by Mr Benn's closing speech, Mr Rees said he must resign unless Mr Benn was extracted as clearly as that the principle of collective responsibility in the Shadow Cabinet would be vindicated.

Mr Foot scarcely acted so promptly or decisively as Mr Heath, although at least he has done calculated damage to Mr Benn in the sessional Shadow Cabinet ballot this week by withholding his personal endorsement.

Macaulay, an historian who over-optimistically believed that knowledge of the past served as the best guide for today and tomorrow, once said: "These things are written for our instruction." We may doubt it, analogies in politics should never be pressed too far, because the chemistry of the events and the personalities may be too different. Mr Benn, however, has been seen of Mr Benn on the Opposition front bench or the Treasury Bench, and many will be sure, with of without foreboding, that one day his ambition will be fulfilled and he will lead his party.

Nor is it particularly odd that two of the ablest members of the Commons Parliamentary speakers and debaters today should equal both of high-class demagoguery and contemporary glibness, should kick against the restraints of collective responsibility. Such men always have affinities. To limit oneself to a particular department of affairs may be bad enough when a man of ambition and energy serves as a Minister in a government; to be limited when you are no more

than a Shadow Cabinet Minister, appointed to a portfolio on the calculation of the leader whom you hope to succeed, may be intolerable.

Two points are worth making now about Mr Benn. First, he is showing an extraordinary consistency and determination in pursuing the policy of collective responsibility that is most likely, in the end, to bring him to the top of the pile. Give power, he says, to the Party conference, which happens to be where his own power mainly lies. He will not let go of the pyramid of party power, which now rises from a broad, if dwindling, base to the apex of party leadership, to be inherited — at least until he has the leadership in his own hands, when he would not doubt begin to bring into play his demagogic gifts and re-establish the old pyramid of power.

Secondly, how does Mr Benn read the prospects of the party he wants to lead? Some acute observers of Labour's fortunes, not least in the trade unions, now conclude that Mr Benn's "disruptive" tactics make sense only if it is assumed that he believes Labour must lose the next General Election. Certainly there is little or no evidence that he is prepared to place all his abilities and energies at the disposal of the party to unseat Mrs Thatcher and win a great victory for Mr Foot.

Among other things he can claim, if he wishes, more responsibility than most for the Labour split called the Social Democratic Party and Liberal Alliance, which could virtually ensure a Labour defeat in 1983 or 1984 whatever the precise balance of Parliamentary power turns out to be. The assumption must then follow that Mr Benn expects to come into his inheritance after a setback into the wilderness. A new leader will be wanted; and a Parliamentary Labour Party, decimated and decimated again, will see the court. Mr Benn to lead a rump of Left-wing MPs to the promised land. It is scarcely an example of the meek inheriting the earth.

## Disbanding Civil Service Department

From the Head of the Home Civil Service and the Second Permanent Secretary, Civil Service Department

Sir, May we offer a brief comment on your leading article, "Madame Guillotine", of Friday, November 13, on behalf of our former colleagues, who are not free to speak for themselves.

Devising satisfactory measures of efficiency over much of the work of the Civil Service has not proved easy and perhaps the best general indicator is the number employed. As to that, you say that the Civil Service Department came to symbolize over-manning. What are the facts?

In its early months of office the Government set a target of 630,000 for Civil Service numbers by April 1, 1984, representing a reduction of 102,000 from the strength on April 1, 1979. On October 1 last, the midpoint of the period, numbers were down by 52,000. In other words we were exactly on course, one of the few economic objectives set by the Government in its early days of which that can be claimed.

Moreover, this has been achieved in spite of the need to absorb about 7,000 additional staff to pay unemployment benefit and over 2,000 to man the prison service.

As to the quality of the staff who have served in the CSD, it is perhaps relevant to point out that in the 13 years' existence of the CSD, there has gone on to attain the rank of Permanent Secretary in a variety of departments.

Finally there is the suggestion that the CSD has been more concerned to look after its own interests, particularly in the determination of pay. It is perhaps worth observing that in the last 10 years the real worth of the pay of a Permanent Secretary has declined by 38 per cent, of an Under Secretary by 11 per cent. If self-interest were our motivation, here we must admit the charge of incompetence sticks.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN BANCROFT,  
JOHN HERBECQ,  
4 Melrose Road,  
Wotton, Surrey, GU18,  
November 14.

From Mr Peter Jay  
Sir, I have seldom read an article in the *Times* that by Mr Peter Kellner (November 13) on the abolition of the Civil Service Department. It is in sad contrast with your own serious and fair-minded leader.

The central theme of the article appears to have been that the Civil Service Department (CSD) was an excellent innovation, integral to the whole reform programme recommended in the Fulton report, which miscarried disastrously as a result of the resistance of the civil servants to the abolition of the CSD. As official Heads of the Civil Service, namely Sir William Armstrong, Sir Douglas Allen and Sir Ian Bancroft. The truth has been precisely the reverse.

In 1968 the Civil Service indeed stood in need of substantial

weeks; in another over 30 officers were involved simultaneously at one stage in the investigation.

The complexity of an investigation is not related solely to the seriousness of the offence, and many less serious cases require the attention of several officers for several weeks, though many require less. A completely independent authority, such as has been suggested by the Police Federation, could have an annual case load of 2,400 if it considered only cases in which assault was alleged, 7,400 cases if it concerned itself with all complaints currently submitted to the Police Complaints Board (including those of a non-criminal nature), or as many as 15,000 if it was also responsible for investigating those complaints which are at present withdrawn before they reach the point at which they would have come to the Board.

An operation on that scale would indeed be costly. If the introduction of a wholly independent organisation to investigate complaints is accompanied by a system of legal representation for the police officers' complaints, as suggested by the Police Federation, then the costs would be greater again.

Yours faithfully,  
CYRIL PHILLIPS,  
Chairman,  
Police Complaints Board,  
Waterloo Bridge House,  
Waterloo Road, SE1,  
November 9.

Scottish divorce

From Mr David Andren

Sir, I have read with considerable interest your leader on Scottish divorce-law reform (November 7). Your comments regarding the three-year "rule" for maintenance payments do not appear, to my untutored legal mind, to interpret the proposals of the Scottish Law Commission correctly.

If you look at clause 13(3) of the proposed Family Law (Scotland) Bill you will see that the court has power to make orders for longer periods when it thinks this is necessary on the basis of the principles set out in clauses 9(1)(c) or (e).

Clause 9(1)(c) deals with the economic burden of caring for children after divorce and says that the court should take into account the parties. Clearly, this principle is intended to apply to one of the cases you have in mind, namely a mother with very young children.

Clause 9(e) deals with possible financial hardship following divorce. Again, it seems to me as would cover the second kind of case you have in mind, namely that of a wife who gets divorced after a long marriage, which is spent mainly looking after chil-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Government investment in housing

From the President of the National Federation of Housing Associations and others

Sir, The need for more Government investment in housing has become urgent. House building is at its lowest level (excluding the war years) since the early 1920s. Although it is generally agreed that Britain needs an extra 300,000 homes each year, neither in 1980 nor in 1981 will half this figure be achieved. Inevitably a growing shortage of homes is beginning to emerge. At the same time, the job of modernizing run-down older property has slowed dramatically.

We welcome the Government's commitment to extend home ownership. But this does not meet the urgent, indeed increasingly desperate need for rented housing. Not only has the supply of rented housing been seriously affected by the reduced building programme, but the stock of existing accommodation owned by private landlords continues to decline by around 200,000 homes a year. Some 40 per cent of the remaining privately rented stock is in need of substantial improvement.

We see little prospect of any new private investment. For those who cannot possibly become owner-occupiers — the unemployed, those with low earnings, single parents, families, elderly people, the disabled, and others with special needs — Government investment in rented housing is the only hope.

Public expenditure on housing makes good financial sense. Spending now on the improvement of deteriorating housing foretells heavier costs or demolition later. Investment in housing helps to ease related problems which otherwise lead to heavier spending by the health and social services. Maintaining some momentum in the construction industry avoids the danger of its reaching so low a level that it suffers irreparable damage.

With unemployment in the

construction industry at over 375,000 (and many more out of work in dependent trades), Government expenditure here would have a double benefit. Some of the money would be immediately recouped through reductions in social security benefits and the receipt of revenue from taxes. The employment dimension is particularly significant in the depressed inner-city areas where housing and unemployment problems coincide, for the building industry could rapidly take on unskilled men and Government action could reduce the tensions and frustrations in these neglected locations.

Alongside local authorities, housing associations have proved one means of tackling housing problems. Currently they are operating at only half the levels of the late 1970s.

The Government will soon be announcing the scale of their programme for next year. It is greatly to be hoped that their work in providing additional rented homes — mostly in newly-built sheltered schemes for the elderly and through rehabilitation in the older urban areas — will not be cut back.

In this field and in the wider context of the public sector, we urge the Government on both humanitarian and economic grounds to invest more, not less, in the nation's housing.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD ELLISON,  
President, National Federation of Housing Associations and others  
GREENWOOD of Rossendale,  
(Housing Centre Trust).  
CHARLES GUY,  
(Institute of Housing).  
HYLTON,  
(Help the Aged Housing Trust).  
SEBORNE,  
(Age Concern).  
SOPER,  
(Shelter).  
A. S. WINKLEY,  
(Catholic Housing Aid Society).  
30/32 Southampton Street, WC2.

### Rejected babies

From Mr David G Lindsay

Sir, The reaction to the Arthur case further demonstrates our obsessive preference for moral pontification over the hard grind of seeking practical solutions.

Surely there must be some appropriately motivated charitable bodies capable of organizing a list of suitable substitute parents willing and able to take on the care and upbringing of babies rejected by their own parents at birth and providing the adoptive parents with any requisite financial resources and expert help?

Life, by its wholly misconceived approach to the recent case, has clearly disqualified itself, but, if the opinion polls (showing substantial support for the idea of keeping alive parent-rejected babies) are to be believed, a great deal of public (not government) help could be expected for such a project.

Deeds, not words, are called for.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID G LINDSAY,  
36 Orchard Coombe,  
Whitchurch Hill,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
November 9.

From Dr P. H. Walker

Sir, In spite of all that has been written in your columns in recent days about the attitudes they should have and the actions they should take, most hospital doctors and general practitioners will go on behaving towards their patients in the future more or less as they have behaved towards them in the past — that is to say, they will continue to try just as hard to help some of them to die as they will to help others to live.

Right or wrong, these things are as they are, and will remain so, whatever your correspondents have to say on the matter.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER H. WALKER,  
The Health Centre,  
Thatcham,  
Newbury, Berkshire,  
November 10.

### Bar sinister?

From Mr R. M. Maxtone Graham

Sir, Lyon King of Arms, with his heralds, used to "fence" each new Scottish Parliament, and would ceremoniously "defend and forbid all persons whatsoever to make or occasion any trouble or molestation to this High Court of Parliament as they will answer at their highest peril." On January 14, 1707, Lyon's petition that he should be given official precedence in Great Britain (immediately after Garter King of Arms) was rejected by the Scots Parliament, who thought it "of no great consequence", and the motto was wisely left to the discretion of Queen Anne, who did nothing about it!

The present Queen has power, under article 24 of the Act of Union to give the Lord Lyon precedence outside Scotland, and under her prerogative to assign him some function at the state openings of Parliament in London (letter, November 11). He could fence it, as of old.

Yours faithfully,  
R. M. MAXTONE GRAHAM,  
6 Moat Sole, Sandwich, Kent,  
November 11.

### Matrimonial burdens

From Mr and Mrs R. Brain

Sir, We have decided, after studying the costings on page 1 today (November 11), and the distribution of household chores between us, that economic and domestic equilibrium would best be secured if we each paid the other £15.734 per day.

Yours faithfully,  
R. BRAIN,  
L. BRAIN,  
4 Badminton,  
Galsworthy Road,  
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

### Mightier than the pen

From Mr Tom Phillips

Sir, I was interested to read Dorothy Hobson's article on Saturday, November 7, which sought to distinguish between pop psychology and culture and somewhat misleadingly argued that in the case of the former the public outcry over the attempt to kill Meg Mortimer of Crossroads has marked the "emergence" of a form of audience power over mass entertainment.

In the mid-eighteenth century, when word spread that Samuel Richardson, whose bestselling novel, *Clarissa*, was being published volume by volume, intended that his heroine's virtue should be rewarded in heaven rather than upon earth, there was a similar widespread outcry. Richardson, who was, at the time of *Clarissa*, not he successfully resisted the pressure, to the great relief of all who now (mostly, alas, academics) read the book as one of the principles of English eighteenth-century novels.

It was also in the eighteenth century that *King Lear* was rewritten with a happy ending because of the gratuitously shocking nature of Shakespeare's closing scene, and I am sure that there are many other instances, in this and other periods, to show that the debate about whether a story has any accountability to its audience, other than that resulting from the need for it to be read or seen in the first place, is considerably older than the present furore about *Crossroads*.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM PHILLIPS,  
91 St James Drive, SW17,  
November 9.

### Touch of glory

From the Reverend J. M. Charles-Roux

Sir, I hope you will not consider impertinent that a foreigner should point out to you and to your Moscow Correspondent, that the canonization by the Russian Church in exile of the martyred Tsar Nicholas II and his family, reported in *The Times* (November 6), raises to the Christian altars not only the first cousin of King George V, since the Dowager Empress of Russia was the late Emperor, and Queen Alexandra were sisters, but also two granddaughters and five great-grandchildren of Queen Victoria; since the Empress, consort of Nicholas II, and her sister Elizabeth, who was, at the time of her martyrdom, a nun and the widow of Grand Duke Serge of Russia, were daughters of the devout and indeed saintly Princess Alice of Great Britain, who had married into the House of Hesse.

As, besides, the Russian Orthodox Church in exile is in communion with the Ecumenical Patriarch and hence with the Church of England as well as with the Church of Rome which considers the Orthodox East in no more than a state of schism and one moreover, since the lifting of the anathemas, no longer bitter but friendly, one may well wonder whether this canonization is not due to be automatically accepted by the Western churches. As a matter of fact, it seems to have been the continual practice, despite the divisions between Christians, to recognize each others' saints.

Thus is one not without some reason for believing that the holiness, now officially defined and proclaimed by the Russian Church in exile, of these Sovereigns and their family who were put to death because they were the incarnation of the Christian principles of the state, does validly reflect upon the House of Hesse and the British Crown touching them with a ray of gentle Heavenly glory.

Yours sincerely in our Divine Saviour  
JOHN MARIA CHARLES-ROUX,  
St Etheldreda's, 14 Ely Place, EC1.

### David Wood

## Benn: a leaf from Powell's old book

In all the hubbub about the Benn affair nobody seemed to concern himself with the fact that there is a striking resemblance between the circumstances in which Mr Heath fatefully dismissed Mr Enoch Powell from the Opposition front bench over immigration, and the circumstances in which Mr Foot insisted that Mr Benn should toe the line of collective responsibility inside the Labour Shadow Cabinet. Even much of the detail matches.

Over a decade ago I remember being on the telephone one Sunday morning to a familiar and firm voice in Broadstairs. Enoch Powell would be dismissed from the front bench; if he were not, then Quintin Hogg would resign. On the preceding Wednesday evening, the Shadow Cabinet had planned for the following week's business in the Commons, which included immigration. Quintin Hogg, carrying responsibility for Home Office affairs, had stated the drift of the Opposition amendment and his opening speech. When Mr Powell demurred, Mr Hogg, with characteristic generosity, had invited him to amend the phrasing to his liking and agreed to speak to that.

That weekend Mr Powell chose to deliver in the country one of his most famous, or some would say infamous, speeches on immigration policy. Mr Hogg no sooner heard the news than he told Mr Heath that, if the Powell form of words meant or implied that he could not accept it, he could not defend it in Commons, and he pressed to resign as Shadow Home Secretary. Mr Heath felt he had no







Doubts of  
Stockman,  
page 15

# Business News

THE TIMES Monday November 16 1981

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## Howe in talks to liberalize insurance

From Peter Norman  
Brussels, Nov 15

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has called his fellow EEC finance ministers to a special meeting here on Tuesday to try to unlock negotiations on liberalizing the European insurance market. There are signs that West Germany may be softening its resistance to change.

Commission proposals for a new directive that would open up the EEC market for large scale non-life insurance have become deadlocked in the Council of Ministers, with Britain and Holland advocating freedom for EEC insurers to contract cross-frontier business in the face of opposition from the other member states.

But this week, the ministers will be presented with West German compromise proposals which appear to go some way towards meeting Britain's demands for a more liberal regime.

According to diplomatic sources in Brussels, the West Germans have relaxed their previous stand that supervisory authorities inside the EEC must be given prior notification of the details of an insurance contract when the party wishing to obtain insurance turns over to an insurer from another Community country.

Britain has always insisted that such provisions in a highly competitive and fast-moving business such as industrial, professional and commercial insurance would amount to a curbing of foreign insurers from within the Community.

Whether the German proposals prove on closer inspection to be sufficient to get the negotiations moving again remains to be seen.

But the question of prior notification has emerged over the past 11 months as the key obstacle to forging a liberal directive. However, there are many other problems to be solved, such as the tax regime for insurance contracts and the rights of branches and agencies to write cross-frontier business.

## PLAYBOY BID UNDER ATTACK

Growing criticism from Trident Television's shareholders over its bid for Playboy's casinos is threatening to undermine the £17m deal.

Criticism is especially strong from Trident's institutional shareholders, with investment fund managers M & G, pointing out the risks in completing the transaction without any guarantee of casino licences, which have been withdrawn.

Playboy has agreed to sell its three casinos in London, two in the provinces and 80 betting shops throughout the country.

Both sides deny there has been any hitch to the sale going ahead, although it is reported that Playboy began talks last week with other parties interested in buying the casinos.

## New warning by Malaysia

Malaysia, which has ordered public enterprises to submit the names of British suppliers with a non-British second choice to the government for final approval, is not planning to boycott British goods but might do if necessary. Datuk Naji Tan Razak, the Deputy Finance Minister, said at Pekan, Malaysia, yesterday.

He said Britain should change its intransigent attitude on trade and investment. Malaysia wants to raise the indigenous stake in the economy from 13 per cent to 30 per cent.

## Linwood auction

The ten-day sale starts today of 14,000 lots at the former Talbot car plant at Linwood, near Glasgow, which closed in May.

## Stock Markets

FT Index 519.2 up 1.0  
FT 100 63.68 up 0.45  
FT All Share 308.28  
down 0.25, 16,817

## Sterling

\$ 1:9080 up 1.30 cents  
Index 90.7 up 1.3  
New York: \$1.9120

## Dollar

Index 107.0 up 0.3  
DM 2.2200 up 63 pts

## Gold

\$412 up \$1.50  
New York: \$413.80

## Money

3 mth sterling 144.144  
3 mth Euro 13.141  
6 mth Euro 13.141

(Friday's close)

## State may bail out private steel makers

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

The Government could release public funds to bail out Britain's recession-hit independent steel makers.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, is under pressure to announce a special aid scheme will get the go-ahead before the end of this month.

Cabinet members are due to discuss the terms on which limited aid scheme could be accommodated and justified later this week. Mr Jenkin is thought to be more sympathetic than Sir Keith Joseph, his predecessor, to the plea for aid to promote restructuring and rationalization, and to provide some counter-balance to the near £2,000m poured into the British Steel Corporation over the past year.

The Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, will have to be convinced that aid will not expose the Government to a stream of requests from other sectors of recession-battered industry which would undermine the foundation of their tough non-interventionist industrial policy.

Any aid would be small compared to that received by the British Steel Corporation, although according to some industry sources up to £50m could be involved. Any such funds are likely to be restricted only to companies whose products are in demand with EEC. These so-called Treaty of Paris products account for about one-third of total sales made by the independent companies.

The most likely aid route would be the 1972 Industry Act which provides for funds linked directly to the Paris Treaty which established the European Coal and Steel Community. The funds would be used for the restructuring of sectors in the overlap areas.

So far this year 11,000 private sector workers have been made redundant and companies need funds for enhanced redundancy payments to those workers who are likely to be affected by further reorganization.

The EEC Commission has to approve such aid, although no serious objections are likely since the Commission is heavily involved in promoting restructuring throughout the community to eliminate over-capacity and stabilize the market.

Earlier this year, the British Government was among the advocates of a new code on state aid to the steel industry which was adopted by the Council of Ministers and which laid down a timetable for the phasing-out of subsidies and a return to normal commercial disciplines.

But in recent talks with Mr Jenkin, leaders of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association emphasized their worries that the future of several private sector companies was being threatened by the Government's continuing subsidization of BSC.

They argued that by funding only the corporation as part of the Europe-wide efforts, the Government was contravening the spirit if not the letter of the EEC code. The state aid decision included provisions for an even-handed treatment of the entire steel industry in each member state.

## Gatt hopes to end US-EEC trade row

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, Nov 15

Members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Council will meet on Tuesday in the hope of disposing of the United States-EEC dispute on export subsidies that has been before the council for almost 10 years.

It involves the Community's complaint against the United States for tax deferral purposes permitted under the Domestic International Sales Corporation legislation and United States counter-complaints against France, Belgium and the Netherlands for tax exemption to foreign subsidiaries of national companies.

If agreement is reached on Tuesday the Gatt council will meet especially to adopt the four-panel report before its annual meeting opens on November 25.

The United States Administration wants to "clear the decks" in Gatt, which President Reagan is advocating as the best instrument for reducing obstacles to world trade and so helping developing countries.

## Bank studies cable link

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The feasibility of running private telecommunications circuits to its headquarters beneath the streets of London is being studied by merchant bank N M Rothschild.

The bank has been approached by several potential users of such a network since it announced in August that it had purchased about 80 per cent of the London Hydraulic Power Company for £1m.

Six proposals are being studied which would use the

## World recession threat to Britain

By Melvyn Westlake

A deterioration in the world economy could pose a new threat to Britain when the worst of the domestic recession appears to have passed.

City analysts are becoming increasingly gloomy about the international economic outlook as the effects of high interest rates and tough policies take their toll in the main industrialized nations.

Forecasts from City stockbrokers Phillips and Drew predict that output in the non-Communist industrial world will rise by only 1.5 to 2 per cent in 1982, compared with an average of about 3.5 per cent in the 1970s. This would be a little better than the 1.25 per cent increase in output expected this year but less than that predicted only a few weeks ago.

Economists at Phillips and Drew are much gloomier about prospects in both the United States and West Germany, which are among Britain's biggest markets. The output of goods and services in the United States is expected to expand by only 1 per cent next year—only half the rate of growth likely this year and not much more than half the level which had been expected previously for 1982.

At the same time, only a slight pick-up is expected in Europe in 1982. The forecast growth in West Germany has also been halved, for the year as a whole, with a further fall in the country's output forecast during the first half of 1982.

Another City stockbroker, Simon and Coates, has revised downwards its forecast growth for the United States next year, although it is less pessimistic than some other analysts. However, it is gloomier about the outlook for output in Britain. Neither broker sees British growth achieving more than 1 per cent

growth in 1982 after two years of contraction.

This bleak picture is likely to be confirmed by economists of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development next month when it produces its own forecasts. These will be presented to the economic policy committee meeting this week.

Last summer, OECD economists were predicting that economic recovery in the industrial world would be modest and hesitant because of strong deflationary forces acting on major countries. It now seems likely that even this forecast could prove too optimistic.

Dr Paul Neill, chief economist at Phillips and Drew, says in the latest *World Investment Review* that despite the agreement to freeze oil prices, prospects for world activity are discouraging, with the United States leading the world down. The cause is the lagged effect of high interest rates combined with tight fiscal policies pursued in most countries in response to the big oil price increase last year. High interest rates have had a substantial impact on output in the United States, which is set to fall significantly at least up to the second quarter of next year.

This fall in business activity is boosting the American budget deficit because welfare spending is rising as a consequence.

Phillips and Drew see some reduction in inflation, predicting that prices will rise on average by 8.5 per cent next year in the industrial world, compared with about 10.25 per cent this year and 12.75 per cent in 1980.

On the British economy, Simon and Coates estimate that public spending in the financial year 1982/83 will be some £5,000m higher than the Government expected.

## Query on 'subsidy' for tractor imports

By Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, will face a series of questions in the House of Commons today about allegations that Britain's hard-pressed tractor industry is facing unfair and government-subsidized competition from France and Italy.

Claims that these and other European countries are offering EEC regulations by offering so-called hidden subsidies to tractor dealers are being investigated by Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield East, whose constituents include workers laid off from the nearby David Brown tractor plant.

Mr Sheerman wants Mr Biffen to mount an immediate investigation and he is also asking the European Commission to study the allegations.



Biffen: urged to investigate claims.

He said at the weekend: "Once again, as with the textile industry, it is the case of British industry being undermined by the cynical manipulation of the rules by other member countries, while the British Government sticks to the letter of the law."

It was also being alleged that the British industry was disadvantaged in certain overseas markets because of some EEC governments offering much greater loans to tractor manufacturers, he added.

A third factor said to be hitting the UK industry was the suspected dumping of East European vehicles at prices often as much as 40 per cent below the cost of home-produced tractors.

Britain's tractor industry, in which the principal companies include Massey-Ferguson, David Brown, International Harvester and Ford, last year suffered a 24 per cent drop in domestic sales to just over 21,200—the worst home market for 16 years.

This year's figures are feared to show a further 15 per cent fall, but a surge in sales largely as a result of favourable harvest conditions, has caused a minor boom and industry leaders are now hoping that the market will be down by only 2 per cent.

## OFT checks grocery discounting code

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating whether the grocery industry needs a discounting code of practice.

Mr Gordon Borrie, director general, has been sounding out the big multiple grocers and their suppliers in a move to tackle the problem of the scale of discounts secured by big volume buyers.

His brief is to find out how far the two sides of the industry would be prepared to back such a code.

It could lead to a curbing of the big multiples' growing buying power over which there is mounting anxiety in Whitehall. It was against this background that Mr Borrie intervened last week in Argyl Foods' bid to take over Lifford.

An alternative to a code is also being explored by the Food and Drink Industries' Council (FDIC), umbrella body for trade associations representing the manufacturers in the sector. FDIC is preparing draft guidelines on discounting which it hopes Mr Borrie will be prepared to adopt.

Mr Borrie has been under pressure to bring in discount guidelines but has doubted the practicability of such a move.

FDIC has met some snags in its drafting. Mr Borrie was particularly disappointed that there was no additional guidance on the discounts issue in last May's report on discounts to retailers made by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

This report is still being considered by the Department of Trade, where some officials are unhappy that it did not go further, even though it found discounts in favour of the big multiples. The Commission recommended no new legislative action because additional discounts secured by large volume buyers had been passed on to consumers.

The Commission acknowledged there were fears that the big multiples could dominate the industry to the disadvantage of suppliers and consumers and urged a close watch on mergers.

Guidelines set out by Mr Borrie or a code of practice agreed between the two sides of the industry could provide a formula but Mr Borrie doubts whether a satisfactory code can be put together.

British Supermarkets & Superstores, Jordan's Surveys, Jordan House, 47 Brunswick Place, London N1, E85.



Bat's eye-view of a Gothic mansion from one of the new aerial platforms.

## New monsters at old hall

Modern monsters have been in residence over the past few days at a former home of Count Dracula, a neo-Gothic mansion near Windsor which has featured in about 200 Hammer horror films.

The old hall, now a luxury hotel, is where Leverton, a Unilever subsidiary, has been demonstrating a new range of mobile aerial platforms. The self-propelled platforms break new technical ground by being extendable up to 85 feet while height, direction and speed can be regulated by an operator in the air.

Made by Calaver, of Los Angeles, the platforms are adaptable for industrial, commercial and military uses.

The platforms have already been used to repair bridges for British Rail, and to maintain the complicated electric circuit illuminating Harrods, in Knightsbridge, London.

With a range of 36 models varying in price from £10,000 to £400,000, either for internal or external use, Calaver hopes to expand their business in Britain to between £50m and £60m by 1985-86.

## Move to curb cheap taps

By Our Commercial Editor

Government action on sub-standard taps from Italy and Portugal is being urged by the National Brass Foundry Association, the trade body for British manufacturers of water fittings.

The association is pressing the Department of the Environment to encourage the National Water Council to bring in a stringent system of approval and testing for taps, including mixer taps.

Of 21 tap fittings from Italy and Portugal, only one had sufficient plating to meet minimum British Standard requirements, the association said yesterday. Six fittings had less than a quarter of the minimum needed for nickel.

Investigation of the quality of imported fittings was started after it was noticed that they sold 15 per cent cheaper than comparable British products.

## Joseph sees a glimmer

There is a hint that company profits are beginning to creep up, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary for Education, told a Conservative meeting at Harrogate yesterday.

He said: "The turn is on, the rise is beginning and I believe these trends will strengthen and strengthen. It is an essential glimmer before the dawn."

## Building plea

Mr John Heddle, Conservative MP for Lichfield and Tamworth, said yesterday he would ask the Government in an adjournment debate tomorrow for legislation to allow all industrial buildings capable of creating jobs to qualify for the industrial buildings allowance, now available only in the manufacturing sector.

## Miner rows to the pit

Believe it or not, the oarsman above is a coal miner going to work. Mr Philip Chappell, 25, is one of a team of miners at Blidworth, near Mansfield, taking part in a scheme, unprecedented in Britain, to pump fine

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## BUSINESS BRIEFING

**Coal** out of a slurry waste pond for treatment in the coal preparation plant.

**Floating pontoon**, called a Mudcat, and using a hydraulic winch, is expected to recover 560,000 tonnes of coal.

**Company results:** Royal Insurance, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, Rigsons Brewery, Savoy Hotel, Tesco Stores, Channe Tunnel Investments, Unilever, Beecham, W. H. Smith & Son Holdings, Boots Co., Powell Duffryn, Royal Dutch Petroleum, Shell, Transport and Trading, Black and White, Godfrey Davis Holdings, and Rean Consolidated Mines.

## THIS WEEK

Today: Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is to answer questions on the Government's economic policy at a meeting of the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee. Engineering talks, EEC farm and foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels. European Parliament in session until November 20. Retail sales (provisional figures for October).

Tomorrow: ACAS conference on Improving Industrial Relations at Sutton Coldfield. EEC finance ministers to discuss creation of a community directive for non-life insurance risks. EEC Council of Ministers discuss Multi-Fibre Arrangements.

Wednesday: Mr David Steel addresses United States Cham-

## Clothing sales rise

Sales of women's underwear rose nearly 50 per cent in September, compared with September 1980, according to the Textile Distributors' Association. Other textile sales to increase were women's jumpers, blouses and skirts (8.7 per cent); women's coats (12.3 per cent); women's stockings and children's socks (8.3 per cent) and men's and boys' clothing and overalls (2.5 per cent).

But single-yarn production in the cotton and allied textile industry was 3 per cent down on September, 1980, according to the Textile Statistics Bureau. The number of employees in the industry declined by 350 in September, making the total to 12,000, 24 per cent down on a year earlier.

## US steel probe

The Reagan Administration has started an investigation into the prices some overseas steel makers are charging in the United States. The action could lead to the imposition of duties against Romania, Belgium, Brazil, South Africa and France.

## £68m for airliner

The Italian Government is to give Aeritalia a first allocation of 150,000 lire (£58m) for its joint venture with Aerospaziale of France to produce a medium-range airliner, the ATR42, with 42 to 49 seats.

X-dam, a Slough-based wholesaler of computer peripheral equipment, has been bought by Technicon International of the United States, itself part of the Dynair Corporation.

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## Spotlight on hotels and breweries

A cash call from Grand Metropolitan has become almost inevitable according to brokers Capel-Cure Myers and investors should consider selling some of their shares now to take up the rights in full at a later stage.

The note that Grand Metropolitan's acquisition of the Intercontinental Hotels group makes it one of the largest hotel chains in the world — but the deal also boosts capital gearing to 70 per cent.

The recent share price performance has reflected the increasing likelihood of a rights issue in 1982 and Capel-Cure believes this will continue until such time as a cash call is made. Because of the dampening effect of this and the expected under performance of the shares, a reduction in the weighting of the shares would be appropriate.

The brokers examine prospects for a number of groups

who, like Grand Metropolitan, have diversified out of brewing. They say that Bass's Crest Hotels chain and its Crest Leisure business make the shares a attractive proposition — indeed, they are likely to outperform the rest of the sector.

This year Bass is likely to make profits of £12m, compared with £11m, rising to £14m in 1982.

### Brokers' views

However, they advise investors to move out of Scottish and Newcastle, Allied-Lyons, and Guinness, while the defensive qualities of Whitbread seem to be the only attraction.

Grice, Grant consider that portfolio should contain brewery shares, believing that

in the results season now starting most companies will have shown they are able to weather a prolonged period of difficult conditions surprisingly well.

There are conflicting views on Redland from two brokers. Phillips and Drew believe profits in the current year are likely to show a further decline to £24.7m from £41.2m — and that the shares seem too high despite the prospect of a recovery in 1982-83.

Rowe and Pitman, however, say the shares are now at a level where they should be purchased because of recovery hopes. They think Redland is a well-managed company and should be regarded as a core holding in the building materials sector. At present levels the shares should be bought for the strong earnings recovery expected over the next few years.

### Business appointments

## New chief for F.C. Finance

Mr Tom O'Malley has been made managing director of F.C. Finance, the finance house subsidiary of the Co-operative Bank. He succeeds Mr Norman Walker, who has retired.

Mr John C. Watts has become managing director of Lovell & Co. He succeeds Mr J. J. Field, who has retired. Mr Watts is also a director of Y. J. Lovell (Holdings).

Mr Angus S. Macdonald has joined the board of Grampian Television.

Mr Arthur Holden has been made director of government relations of Tesco. He takes over from Mr J. S. Bannan who has retired from the company.

Mr K. Linford, who is managing director of the property division has gone on to the board of Tesco. He succeeds Mr J. S. Bannan.

Mr K. F. D. Wilson will become managing director of British Oil Trading on April 1 1982 on the retirement of Mr J. S. Bannan.

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## Third World to boost Unilever profits

Most blue chips enjoyed a strong run on the back of last week's sharp rise in the equity market and further gains may be seen this week when three of the FT 100 constituents, Boots, Beecham and Unilever, report.

In addition, Tesco should keep up interest in the food sector with its half-year statement, while Shell produces its third-quarter report.

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Dividend prospects are good, though much will ultimately depend on the relative strengths of the group against the Dutch guilders.

Recent figures from



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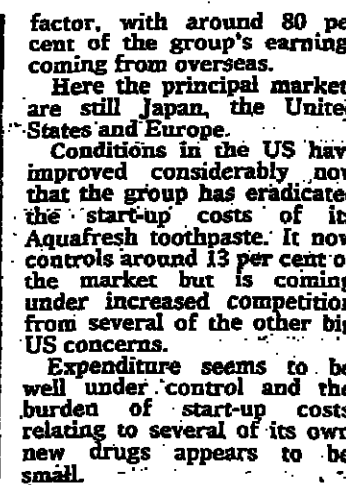
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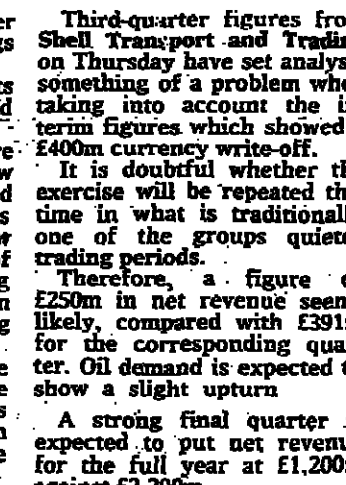
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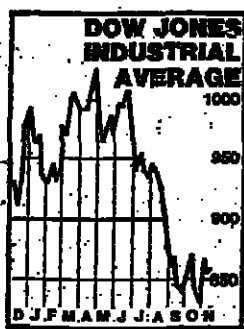
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# Americans feel symptoms of Reaganomics



(Free translation of the official French text)

UNION MINIERE  
Société Anonyme

Registered Office: rue de la Chimie n°1, Brussels  
Brussels Register of Commerce no 13.377

**NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS**

Shareholders are invited to attend the Extraordinary Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 24th November, 1961, at 2.30 p.m. in the Office of the "Société Générale de Belgique" 30 rue Royale, Brussels.

**AGENDA**

1. Report of the Board of Directors explaining the interest for the company of the heretofore published examinations and report of the legal Auditor on the transfers to be made in execution of these operations.
2. Anticipated discussion and voting up of the company. Nomination of the liquidators and fixing of their emoluments.
3. Duties of the liquidators:  
(a) transfer of the non-formous branch of the company activities to a new "Société Générale de Belgique" under the name of "Union Minière" with a capital of 10,000 millions Belgian francs, represented by 1,000,000 shares without par value, on the basis of the company's financial statements as of August 31, 1961. All operations contemplated by the present company since that date until the date upon which the transfer will be effective, within the limits of the above-mentioned branch of activities, will be deemed to be made for the account of the new company, in consideration for this transfer, 682,041 shares will be transferred to the new company;  
(b) assignment transfer to the "Union Minière" - Société Générale de Belgique" of whose Board of Directors the shareholders of the "Union Minière" are proposed under item 6a, including therefore the consideration of all the accounts of its assets as of that date, including the balance sheet and the profit and loss account proposed under item 6a, heretofore, with all assets and liabilities, nothing being excluded or reserved, and thus on the basis of the balance sheet dated 31st August 1961, and all operations completed by the company since that date until the date when the transfer will be effective, to be deemed to be made for the account of the new company, in consideration for this transfer, 682,041 shares will be transferred to the new company;  
(c) assignment transfer to the "Union Minière" that will be deemed to be made for the account of the new company, in consideration for this transfer, "Société Générale de Belgique" (G) having 5,591,350 shares, representing 55.91% of the shares of the company, as of January 1, 1961 and intended in all respects to the existing "part de réserve"; (d) assignment transfer to the "Union Minière" of the existing company, (G) built all of its obligations, (iv) assignment transfer to the shareholders of the company and 50 quarters the company and its liquidators applied any action.
4. Anticipating the abolishment of the 5,681,350 "parts de réserve" representing the consideration for the transfer, in the proportion 0.5 "parts de réserve" of "Société Générale de Belgique" for 9 thirds of a Union Minière share, of which the same will be changed in 1/3 of the shares of the company.
4. Adoption of the name "Ancienne Union Minière" and as a consequence, modification of article 7 of the "Statuts", in order to be added to the following line of giving direction to the Board of Directors and to the Auditors, and organizing the affairs of the general meetings: after the exchange of shares.
5. Anticipating that the decision which will be taken, will only be definitive upon the approval of the operations by the shareholders of the "Société Générale de Belgique".

In order to be admitted to this Meeting owners of bearer shares must deposit their shares with the Registrar, 10 rue de la Loi, Brussels, with a view to the following banks:

in Belgium: the "Société Générale de Belgique" in Brussels;  
in France: the "Banque Belge (Fristet)" 12, rue Vivienne, 75002 - Paris.  
in the Netherlands: with "Amsterdam Bank N.V.", Houtmarkt 595, 1001 Amsterdam.

Shareholders of bearer shares will be admitted to the Meeting on producing a statement that one of the above banks mentioning the identity of the holder of the shares and certifying that the shares will remain deposited from 19th to 24th November, 1961, included.

Shareholders of registered shares must arrive the Company not later than Thursday 16th November, 1961, of the following address: 30 rue Royale, 1000 Brussels.

Proxies, conferred according to article 30 of the Articles of Association, must be deposited with the Registrar, 10 rue de la Loi, 11th November, 1961, at the Company's Registered Office, rue de la Chimie n°1, Brussels.

Proxy forms are available at shareholders at the Company's Registered Office and also at the above-mentioned banks.

The Board of Directors



5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

\* Ex dividend. \* Ex mlt. \* Forfeited dividend. \* Corrected price. \* Interim payment passed. \* Price at suspension. \* Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. \* Bid for company. \* Pre-merger figure. \* Forfeited earnings. \* Ex capital distribution. \* Ex rights. \* Ex scrip or share split. \* Tax free. \* Price adjusted for late dealings. . . No significant data.















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